EVENING KC

4

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU
オールラウンダー廻（メグル）

遠藤浩輝
HIROKI ENDOO

EVENING KC

オールラウンダー廻（メグル）
4
遠藤浩輝
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The themes of this manga are "effort, friendship, and victory."

"What is this, *Shonen Jump?!*" you may scoff, but so what if it is? And maybe some people will say "How can you say that after all those depressing manga you've drawn?" and that's fine, too. In Japan today, experiencing "depression" is how people grow up! It used to be kids would break the windows at school and then at some point decide "I can't keep this up" and go on to become good fathers, right?

These days you can't really become an adult unless you get depressed and lock yourself up in your room. It's a modern rite of passage. I know you're about to say "Some people get depressed and commit suicide, so you shouldn't speak lightly of it," but you used to have people saying "My friend died in a motorcycle accident," didn't you? It's the same thing (just kidding, please don't take me seriously).

Getting back on topic, *Jump*'s peak was during Japan's economic bubble, when everyone was getting all hyper spouting stuff like "We may have lost the war, but our economy's the best!", right? Then America got the better of us and here we are now (really, don't take me seriously), so it's fun to go with the obvious "if you work as hard as everyone else and make friends, you'll win some and you'll lose some."

Of course there are people who win all the time and make a ton of money, but Japanese people already know that money doesn't equal happiness, and mainstream stuff like school and work is boring, isn't it? Set aside any expectations from them and just find enjoyment outside of work and school. There is no meaning to life. Or rather, you have to find your own meaning. Whether it's *otaku* culture or sports, it becomes an industry because people find meaning in it. It's the same for martial arts. There was a boom a while ago, but the passion has cooled. After the frenzy, what's left are the people who make it their life's work. Those are the people working to live off it and make it a "culture" once the boom is over. It's fine to think "we should make a second boom!" but it's OK to have the excitement be something occasional.

The "effort," "friendship," and "victory" of the '80s bubble are fine, but these days we have "trying one's best" and "friendship found in the fluidity of human relationships" and thus "you win some, you lose some." That in and of itself is pretty dramatic, but then does that get people saying stuff like "You'll lose out on a big story that way" or "Tch! I guess your real life must be pretty fulfilling"? However, I'm sick of the whole "fading out after fantasizing about turning your life around" thing, so this is a bid to see whether or not there can be a 21st century renaissance of "effort, friendship, and victory."

Hiroki Endo, 7/10/2010

cover design
Tadashi HISAMOCHI + Seiko TSUCHIHASHI (hiveaco.,ltd.)

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MEGCHAN
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NOMAD SOUL

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU 4

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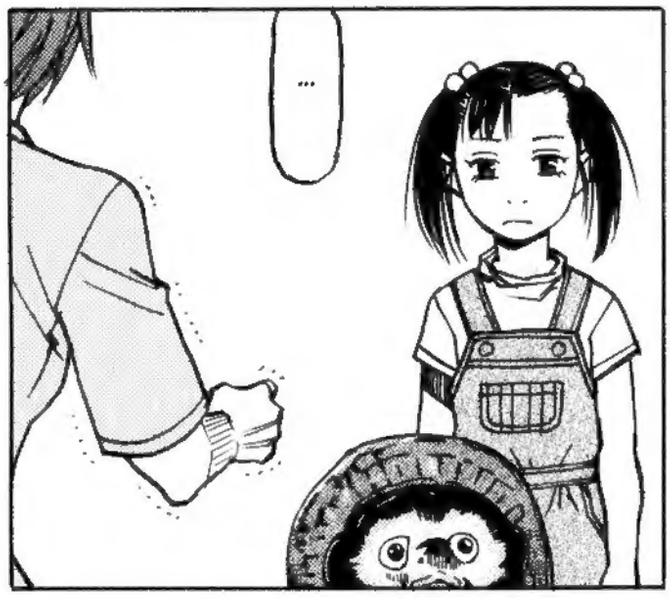
Chapter 29 | Start of the Kanto Championship

SIGN: KAMIYA CONSTRUCTION.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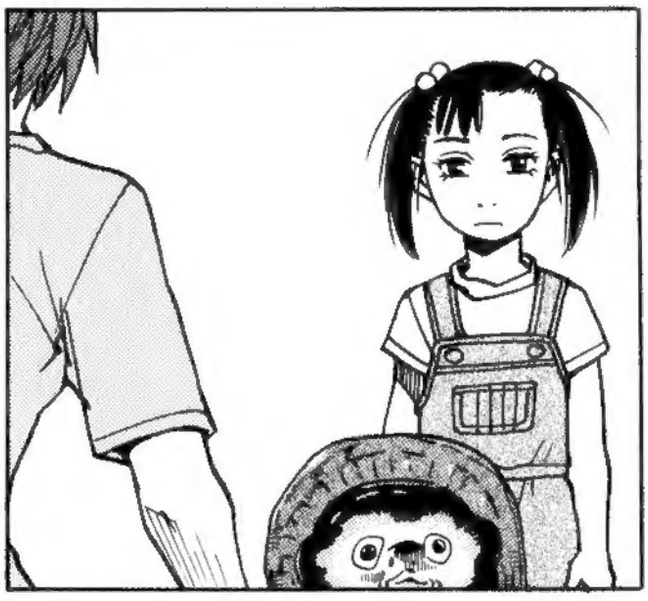
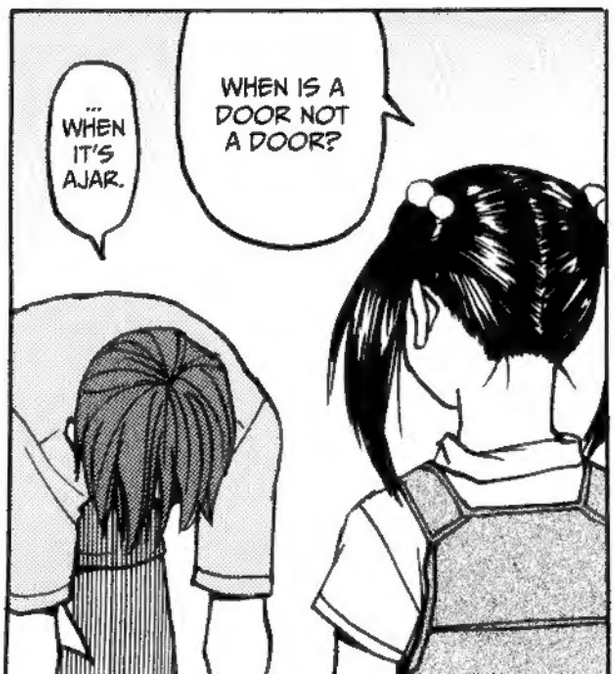



WHEN IS A DOOR NOT A DOOR?
... WHEN IT'S AJAR.

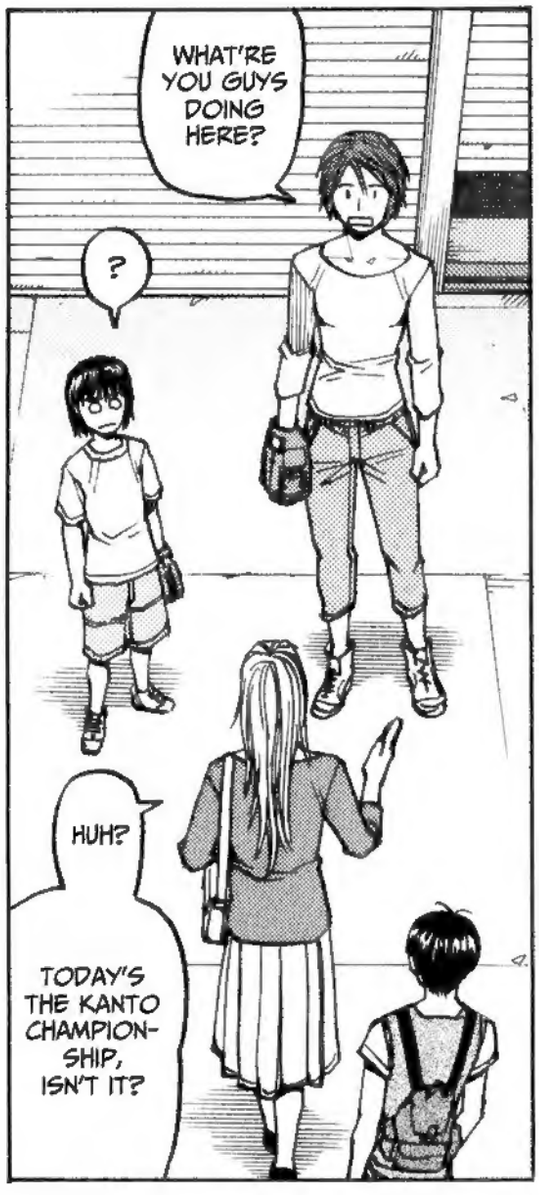
QUIZ TIME.

SIIIIIIIIS!
どた
どた
WHAT?
HERE I SENT YOUR CUTE LITTLE NIECE IN TO WAKE YOU UP.
AS AN ASSASSIN?
SHE NEARLY PUT ME TO SLEEP FOREVER!
神谷
HEY, MAKI! DON'T COME DOWN HERE HALF-DRESSED LIKE THAT.
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
YOU'RE HER MOM, YOU SHOULD KEEP A BETTER EYE ON HER.
Niece - Aya (3)
Sister - Itsuki (23)
SOONER OR LATER SHE'S GONNA KILL SOMEONE.
HEY, DIO! I'M GONNA BUILD YOU A NEW DOG HOUSE TODAY!
...
Wants to say something, but knows it's useless.
HE'S 25, SO THIS IS AN UNLUCKY YEAR!
Dad - Koji (51)
Brother - Koki (25)
WOOF WOOF
ギーコ
ギーコ
A RED LOINCLOTH WARDS OFF BAD LUCK!
Dio
♂ Age 4

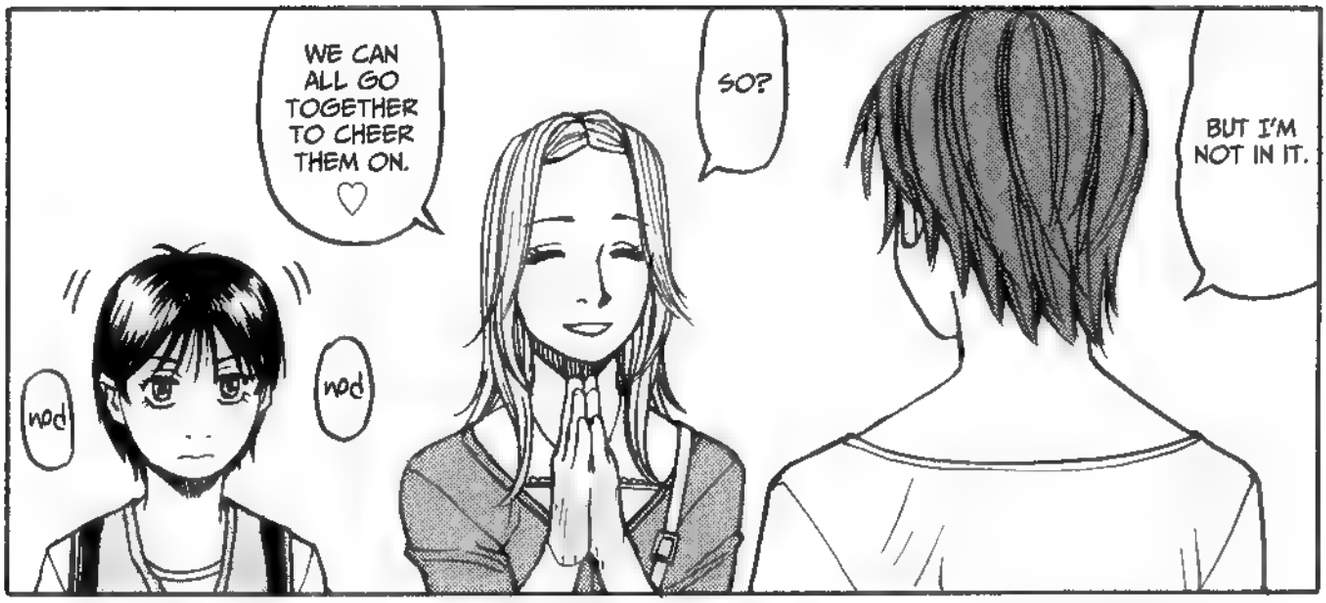
Sister-in-Law - Yui (24)
OHH ...
SO FAST.
Ahhh...
OH, SHO, YOU'RE GETTING SO GOOD AT WALKING.
Nephew - Sho (1)
I'M WARMING UP SOME MISO SOUP.
SO GO GET CHANGED!
'KAY.
Mom - Takako (49)
I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE.
SHUT UP AND PUT SOME PANTS ON YOUR DIRTY ASS!
HEY, ITSUKI! IF YOU'RE GONNA MOVE BACK IN, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS HELP WITH THE HOUSEWORK!
Ahh
AT LEAST LET ME EAT BREAKFAST FIRST.
Gah
LET'S PLAY CATCH!
OH, AUNTIE MAKI, YOU'RE UP?!
Nephew - Eiichi (6)

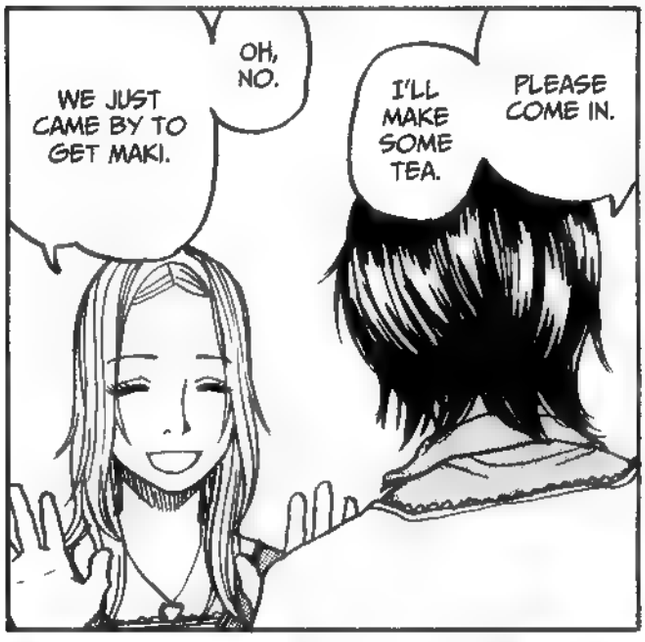
MAKI!
?!

THWAP


WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
?
HUH?
TODAY'S THE KANTO CHAMPION-SHIP, ISN'T IT?

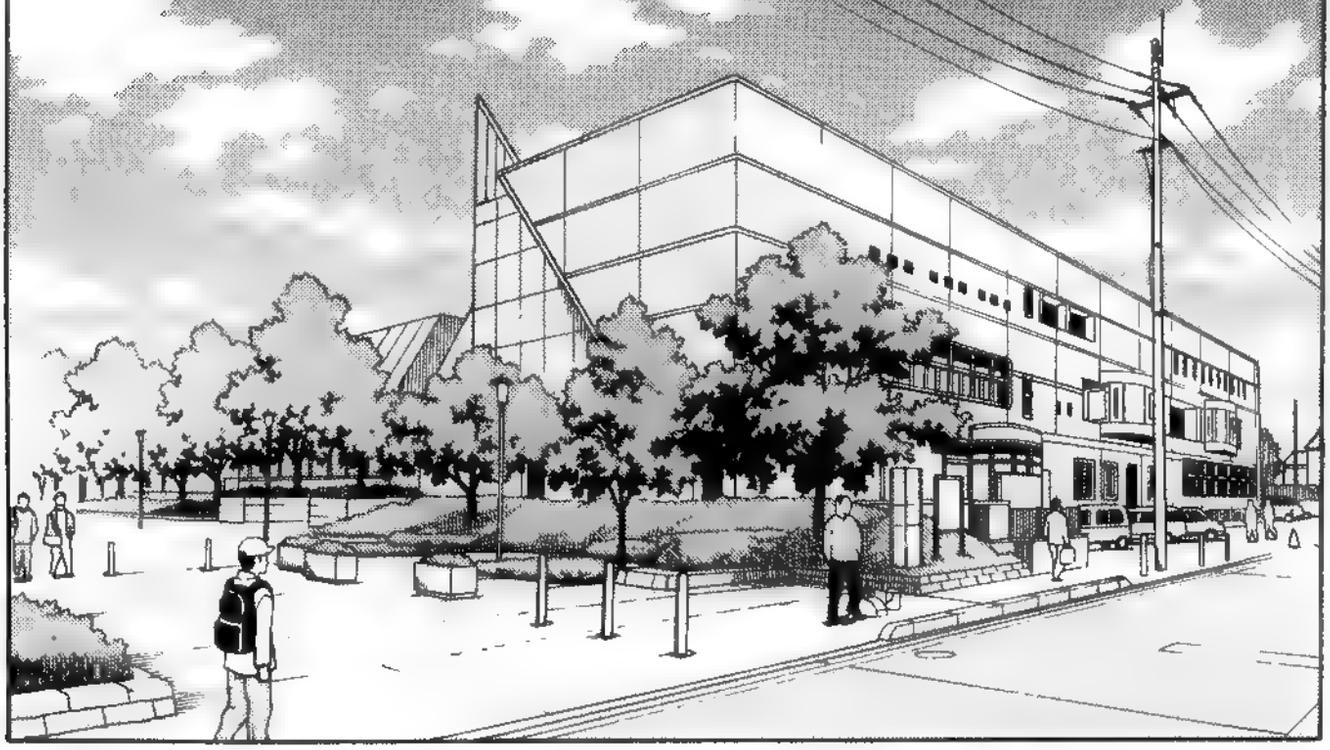
HEY!
HEL-LOOOO.


WE CAN ALL GO TOGETHER TO CHEER THEM ON. ♡
SO?
BUT I'M NOT IN IT.
nod
nod


OH, NO.
WE JUST CAME BY TO GET MAKI.
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
PLEASE COME IN.

ARE THESE YOUR FRIENDS, MAKI?
OH.
UGH, SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN.

AND NOW WE'LL BE GOING.
Wahhhh! Give Auntie Maki back!

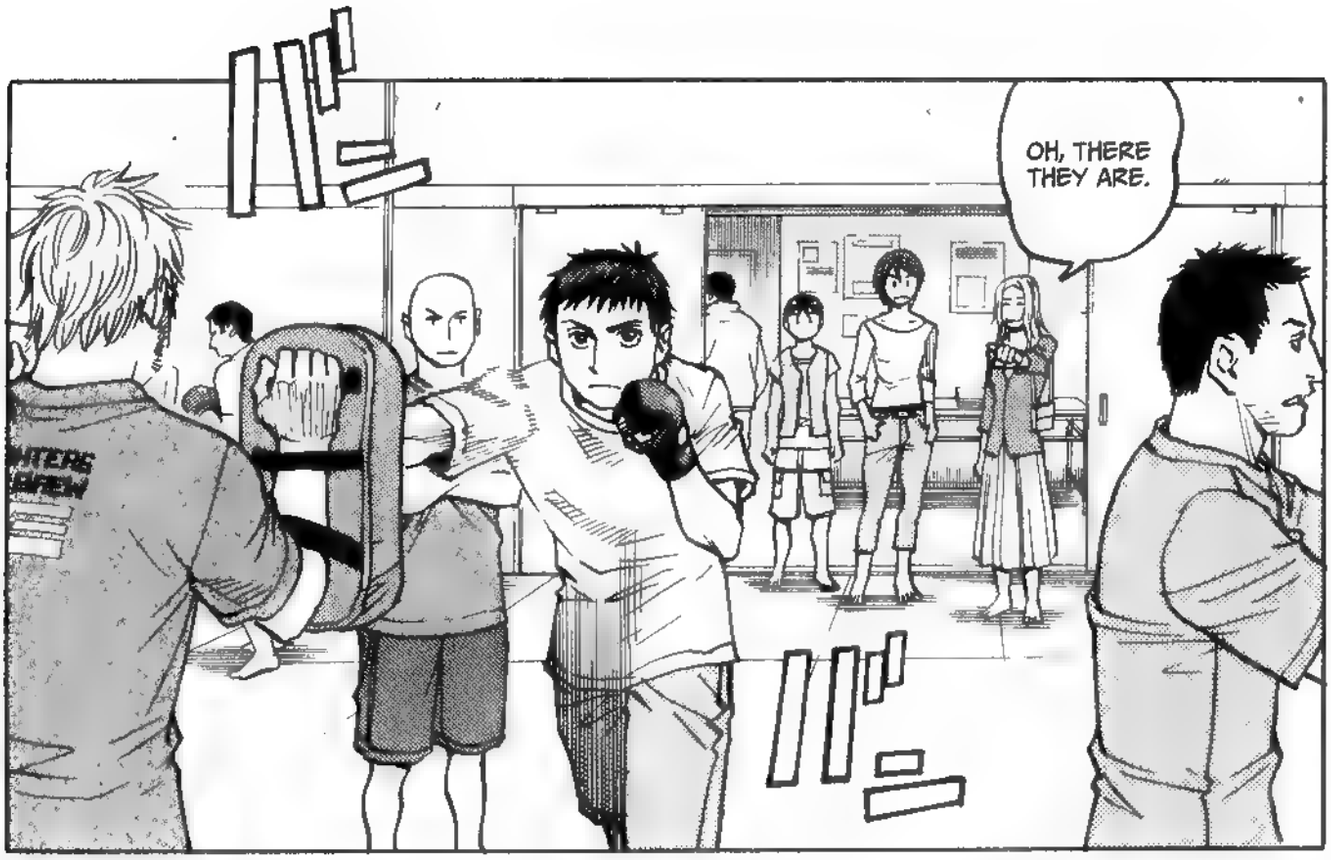


PER-
FECT.
HOW'D
IT GO?

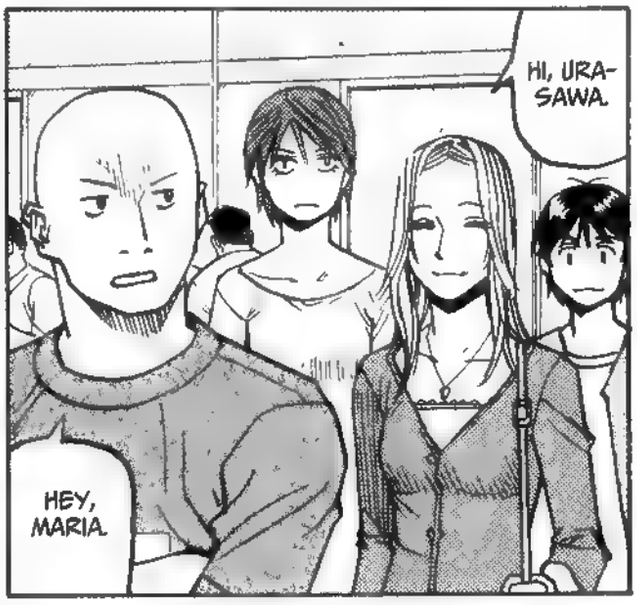
64.6
KG...
YOU'RE
OK.

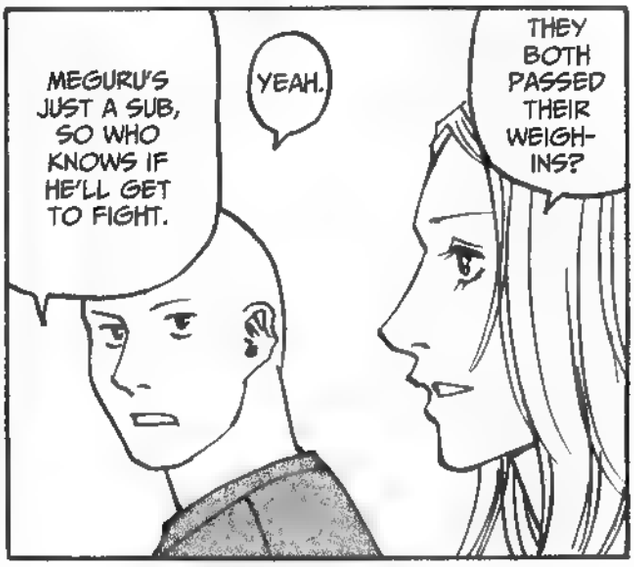
!
YEAH, LET'S GO.
THIS IS IT?
OH, THAT GUY...
DUNNO WHO HE IS, BUT I GUESS HE FAILED THE WEIGH-IN.
POOR GUY...
I DOUBT THAT'S GONNA DO ANY GOOD.
Maki

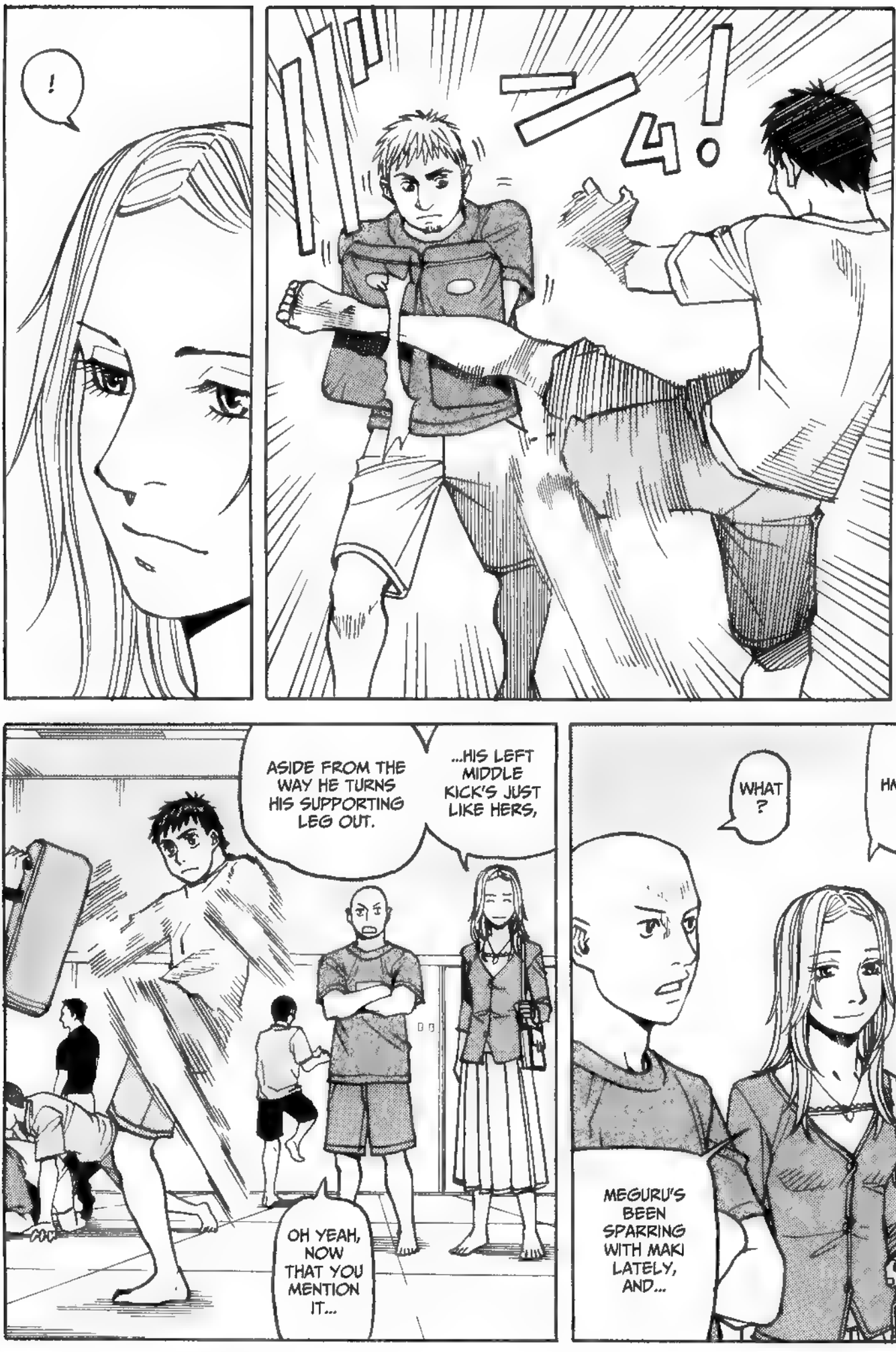
HUH? WHAT ABOUT YUDAI?
FURUYA'S GOT HIM ON A DIFFERENT TRAINING REGIMEN.
ME-GURU.
BETTER START WARMING UP.
OH, RIGHT.
FIGHTERS BREW
WE SHOULD WARM UP TO-GETHER ...
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE WAS ON A DIFFERENT REGIMEN BEFORE, TOO.

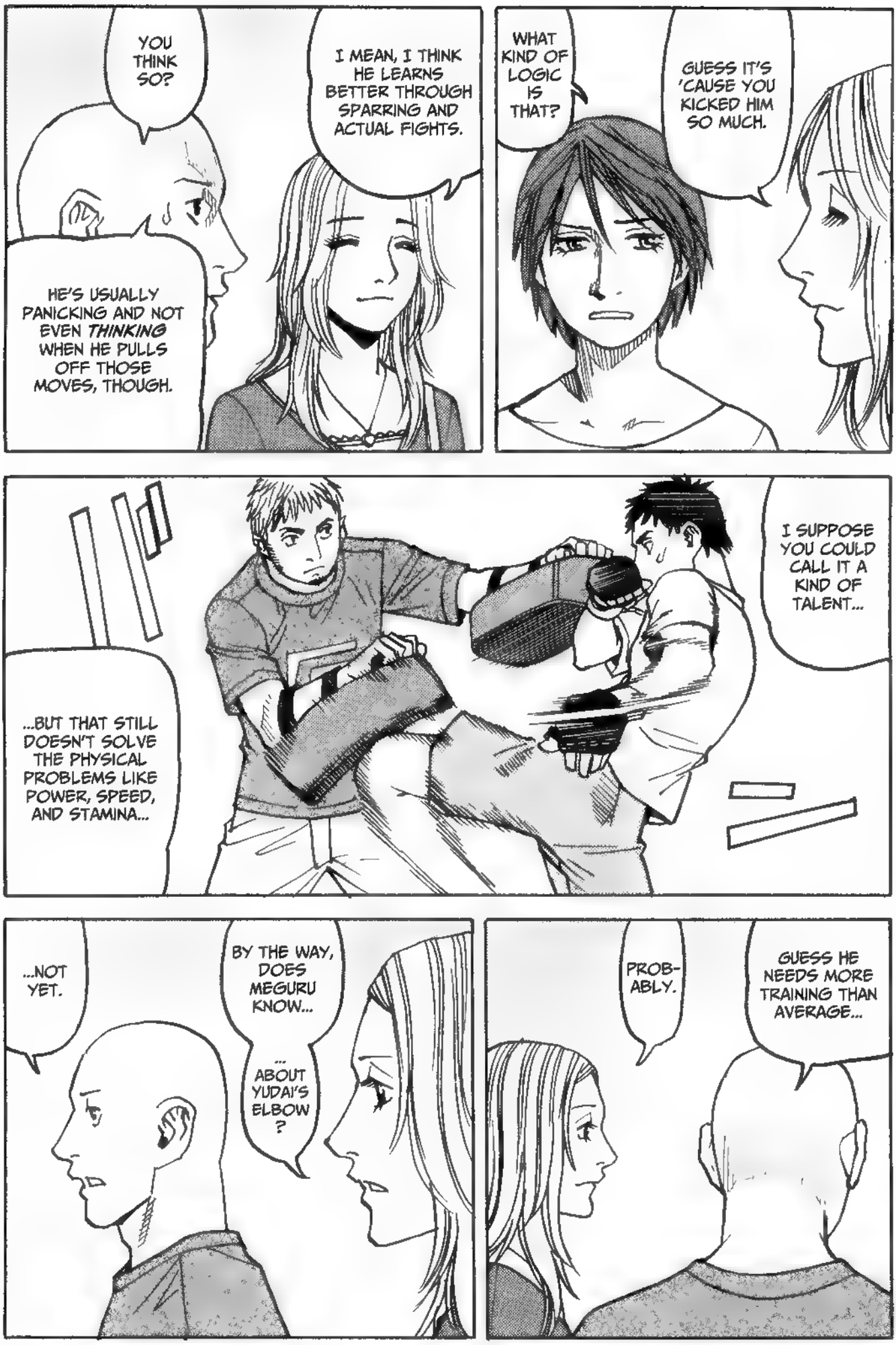

OH, THERE THEY ARE.

OK, ONE-TWO, MIDDLE!


HI, URA-SAWA.
HEY, MARIA.


MEGURU'S JUST A SUB, SO WHO KNOWS IF HE'LL GET TO FIGHT.
YEAH.
THEY BOTH PASSED THEIR WEIGH-INS?

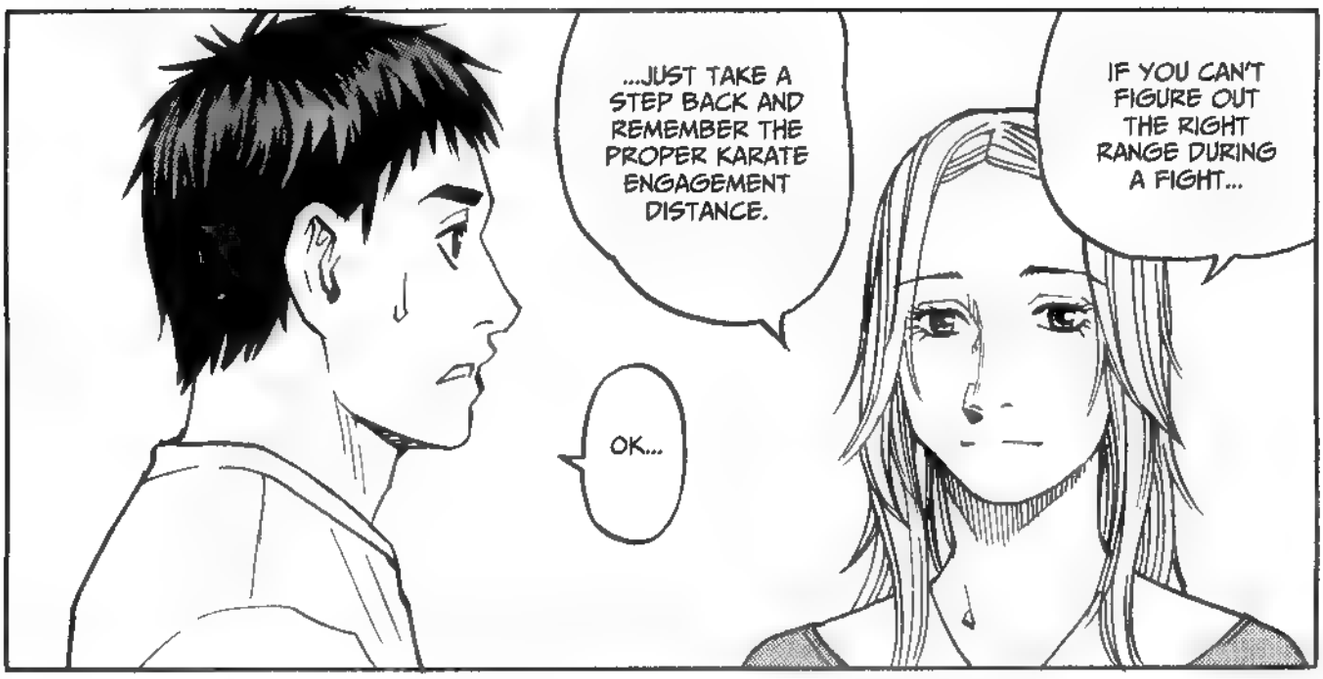

!
ー4!
ASIDE FROM THE WAY HE TURNS HIS SUPPORTING LEG OUT.
...HIS LEFT MIDDLE KICK'S JUST LIKE HERS,
OH YEAH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
HMM...
WHAT?
MEGURU'S BEEN SPARRING WITH MAKI LATELY, AND...

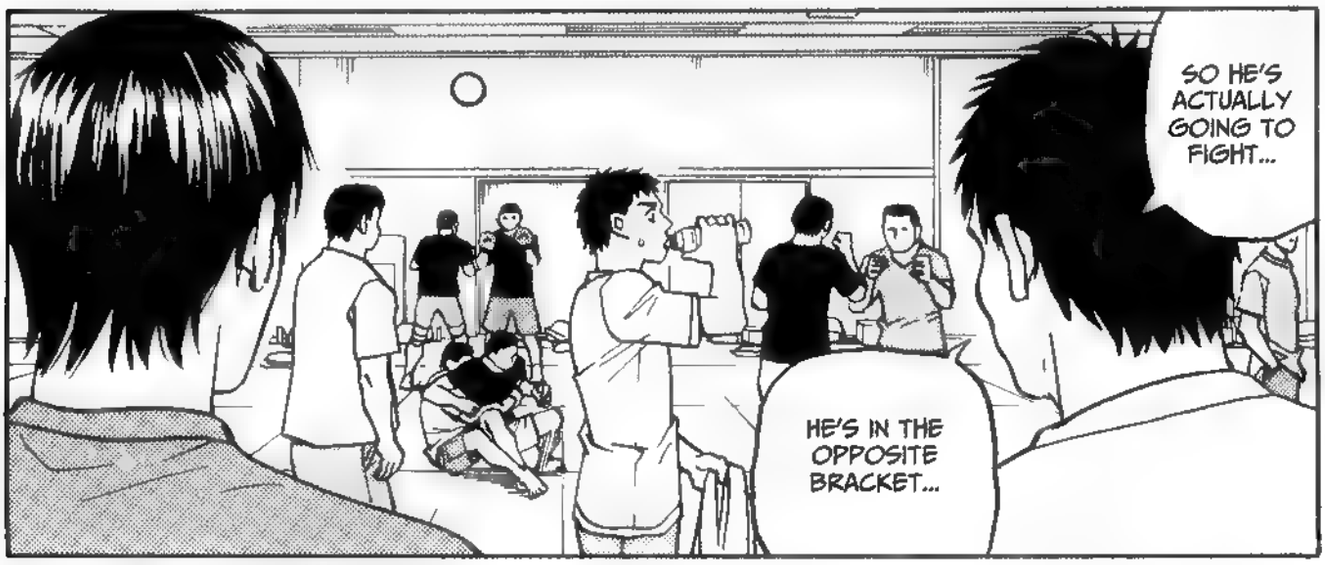

YOU THINK SO?
I MEAN, I THINK HE LEARNS BETTER THROUGH SPARRING AND ACTUAL FIGHTS.
HE'S USUALLY PANICKING AND NOT EVEN *THINKING* WHEN HE PULLS OFF THOSE MOVES, THOUGH.
WHAT KIND OF LOGIC IS THAT?
GUESS IT'S 'CAUSE YOU KICKED HIM SO MUCH.
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT A KIND OF TALENT...
...BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T SOLVE THE PHYSICAL PROBLEMS LIKE POWER, SPEED, AND STAMINA...
...NOT YET.
BY THE WAY, DOES MEGURU KNOW...
...ABOUT YUDAI'S ELBOW?
PROB-ABLY.
GUESS HE NEEDS MORE TRAINING THAN AVERAGE...

YUDAI ASKED ME NOT TO SAY ANYTHING...
HE'LL FIND OUT WHEN THE MATCH STARTS, THOUGH.
...
OH.
IT'S THE GUY WHO WAS OUT RUNNING.

The rules meeting will begin at 11:10.
Weigh-ins are now over.
...
...Meguru Takayanagi!
OHH!
...will be...
AWE-SOME, MEGURU!
...both failed their weigh-ins...
In addition, lightweight Nakamura and middleweight Osaki...
Subbing in for lightweight bout 17...
... and will not be allowed to compete.

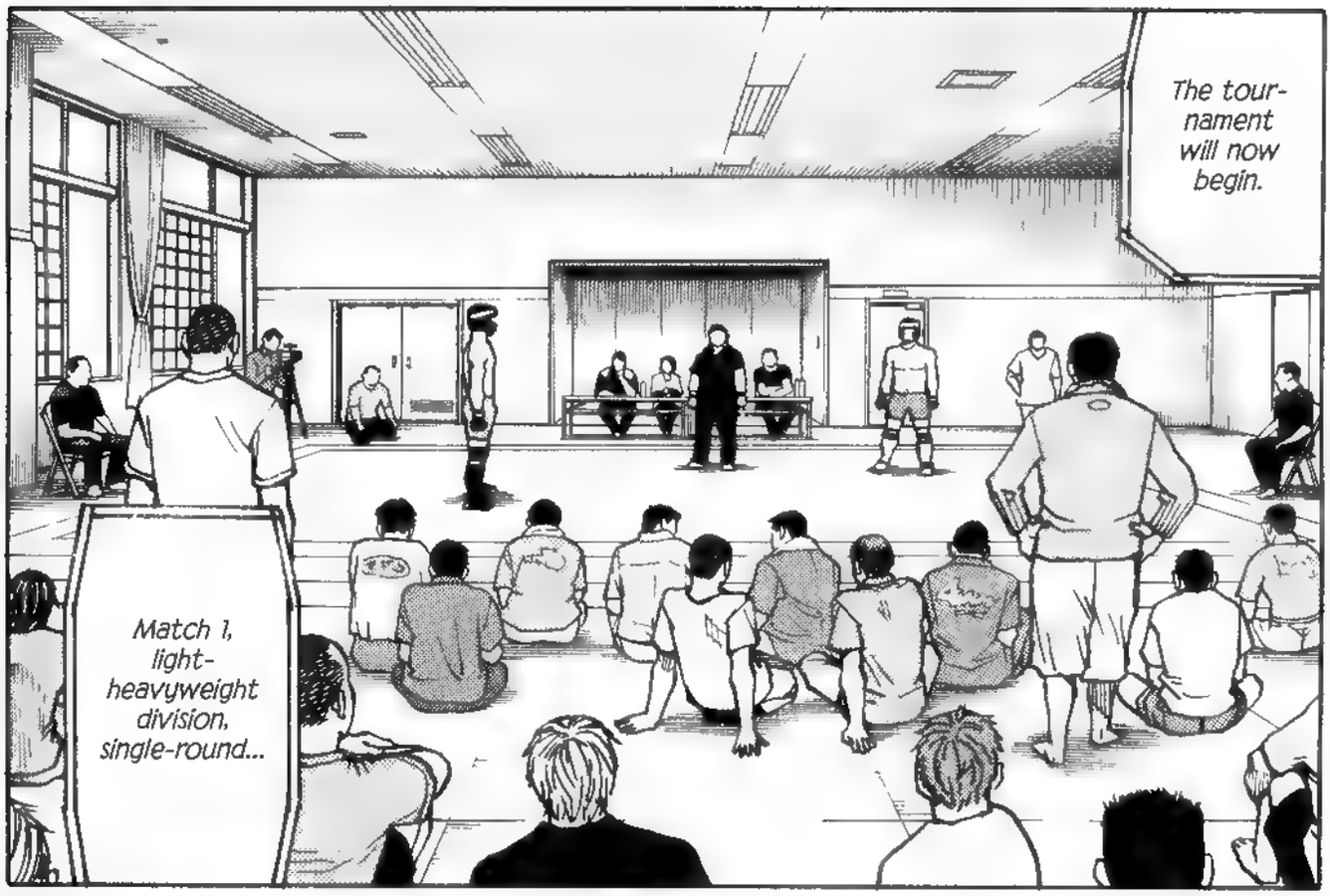
WOOSH
...
And for middleweight bout 4...
OH NO, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I'M GETTING NERVOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN...
panic
panic
MEGURU, KEEP UP THE SHADOW BOXING.
WHICH STYLE MAKES IT EASIER TO USE YOUR LEFT BODY?
UMM...
TRADI-TIONAL...
JUMPING IN FROM A DISTANCE...
ME-GURU.
YEAH ?
WHEN YOU TOOK KARATE AS A KID, WAS IT FULL-CONTACT OR TRADITIONAL?
MY MASTER WAS TRADITIONAL, BUT I ENTERED A FEW FULL-CONTACT TOURNAMENTS.
AHA...
SO THAT'S WHY...


IF YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE RIGHT RANGE DURING A FIGHT...
...JUST TAKE A STEP BACK AND REMEMBER THE PROPER KARATE ENGAGEMENT DISTANCE.
OK...


SO HE'S ACTUALLY GOING TO FIGHT...
HE'S IN THE OPPOSITE BRACKET...

...

SO IF YOU GO UP AGAINST HIM, IT WON'T BE TILL THE FINALS.
NOT THAT I THINK HE'LL GET THAT FAR...


The tournament will now begin.
Match 1, light-heavyweight division, single-round...

Of the over ten different tournaments from Hokkaido to Kyushu to Okinawa...
...the Kanto Championship has the most entrants and the highest skill level.

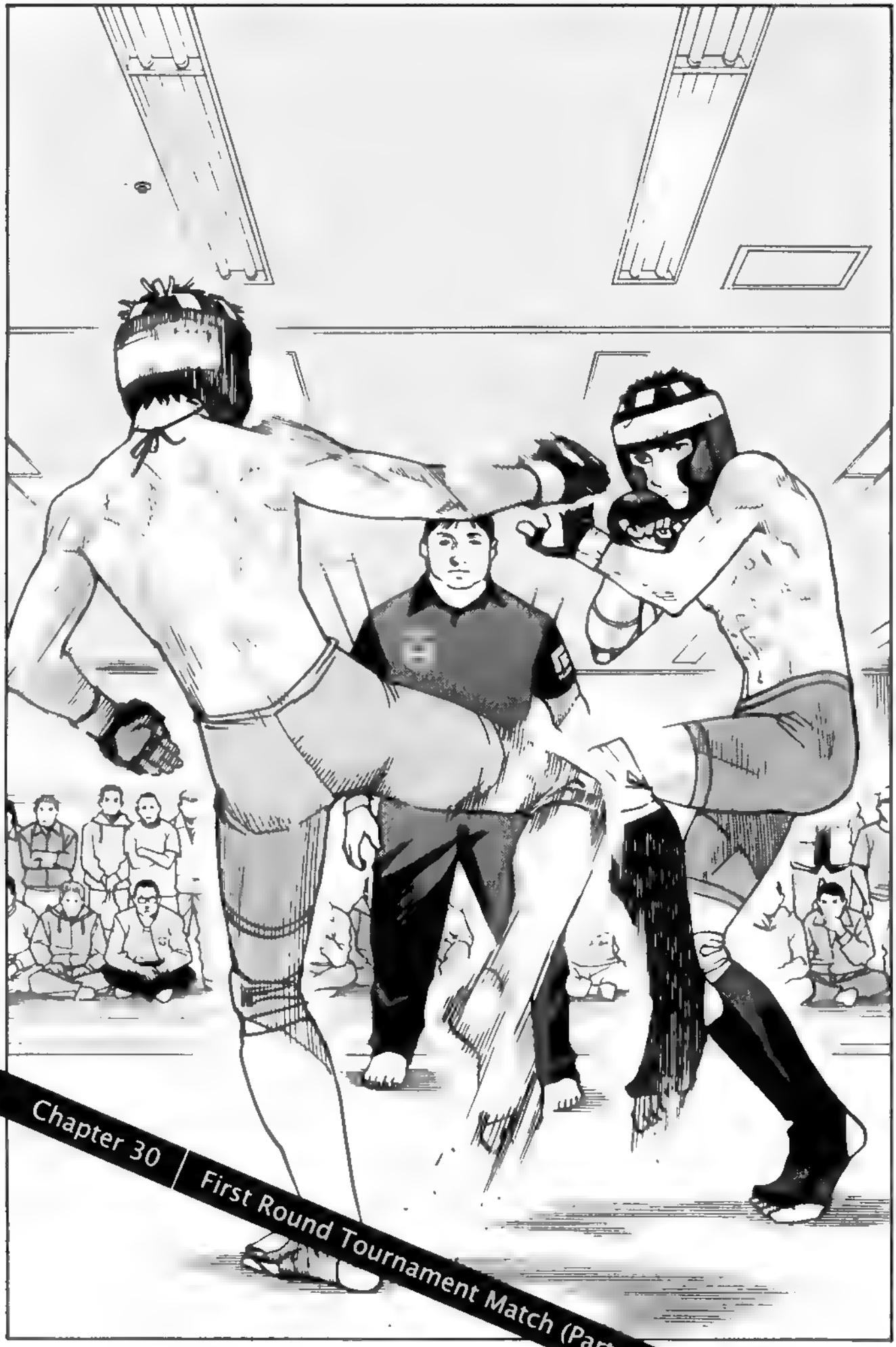
With the national amateur *shooto* championship coming up in September...
...preliminary tournaments begin all over the country in June.

Kishida won by decision.
26-28, blue.
Only the regional tournament winners will move on to the nationals.
And only those with the best scores will be able to go pro.
OK.
ALL RIGHT, YUDAI, BETTER GET READY.
!

...
UH...
UM,
YUDAI?
NO WAY...
THAT TIME?
TAKESHI, UM...
YOU'RE UP SOON, TOO.
JUST CONCEN-TRATE.
...DID EVERYONE KNOW?
WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU 'CAUSE YOU'D WORRY.
I SAID IT'D HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT, THOUGH...

YEAH, BUT...
HE SHOULDN'T BE FIGHTING!
...APPARENTLY HE MANAGED TO CONVINCE FURUYA.
TORN LIGAMENT IN HIS RIGHT ELBOW...
HOW BAD IS IT?
In the red corner, from Fighters Brew...
Match 12, lightweight division, single-round.
...Yudai Kitamura.

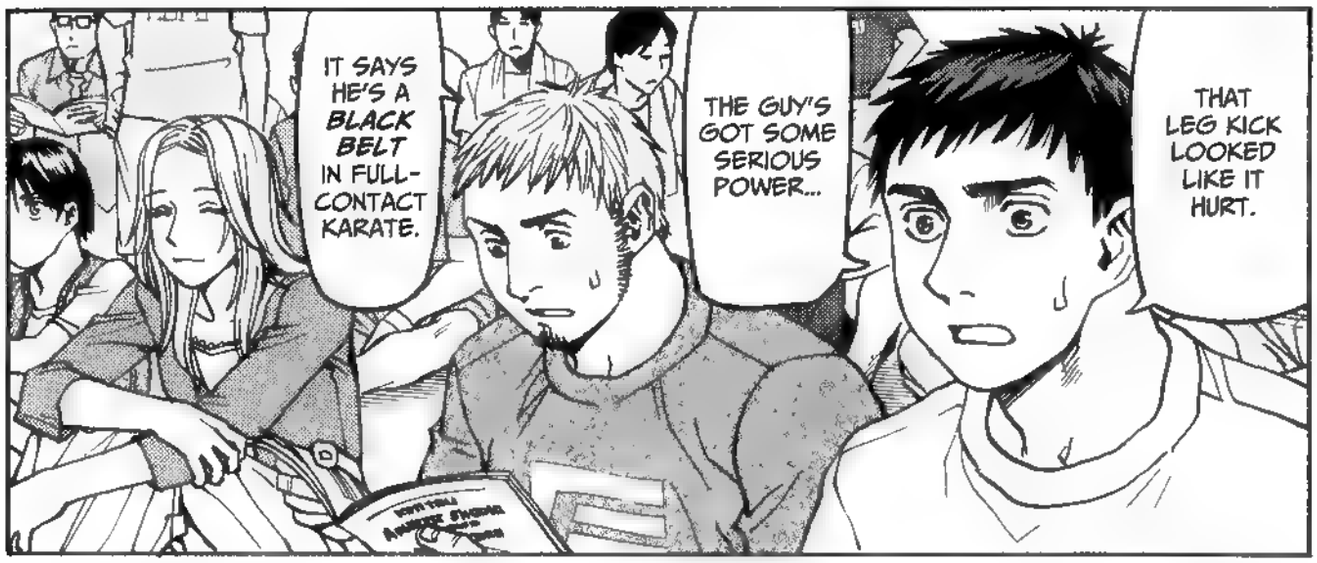
...
WHY'S HE DOING THIS? HE'S JUST GONNA MAKE IT WORSE.
GOOD GRIEF.
...
HE'S NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT HIS OWN FIGHT ANYMORE.
FIGHT!
FIGHTERS BREW

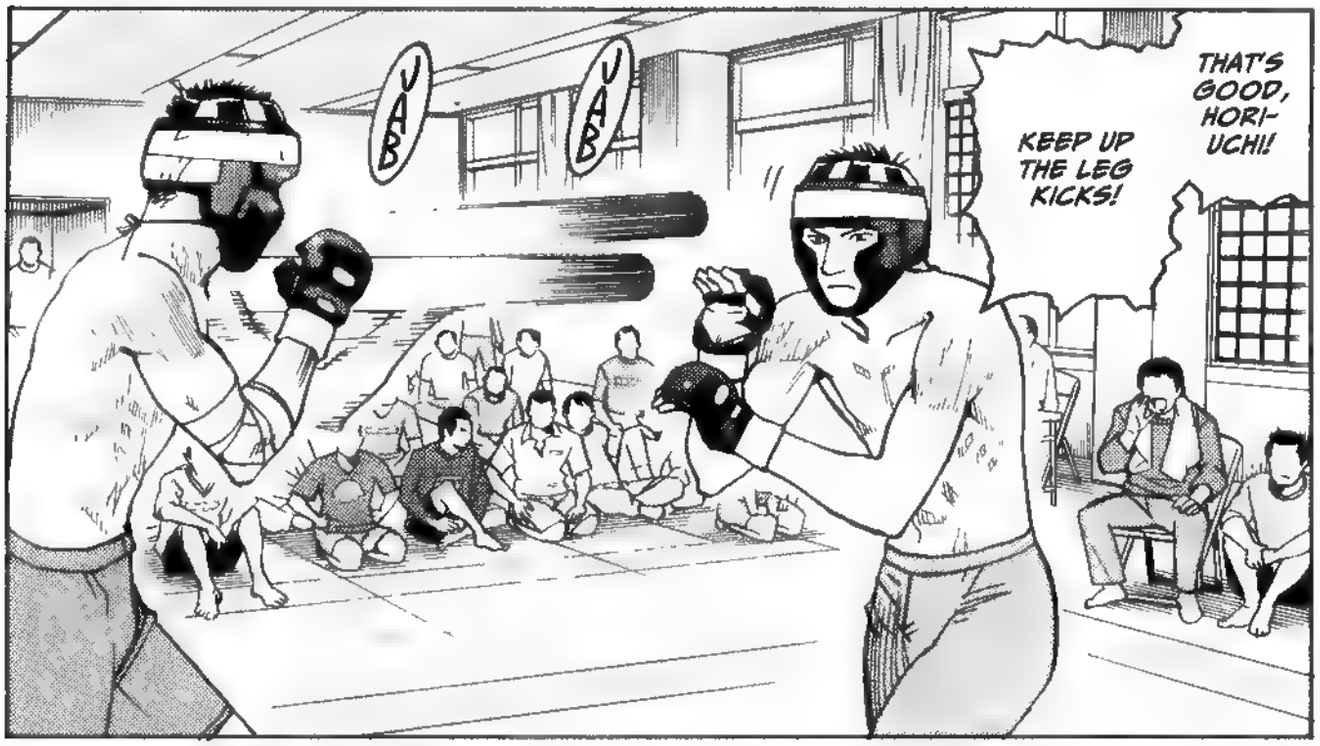


Chapter 30 | First Round Tournament Match (Part 1)

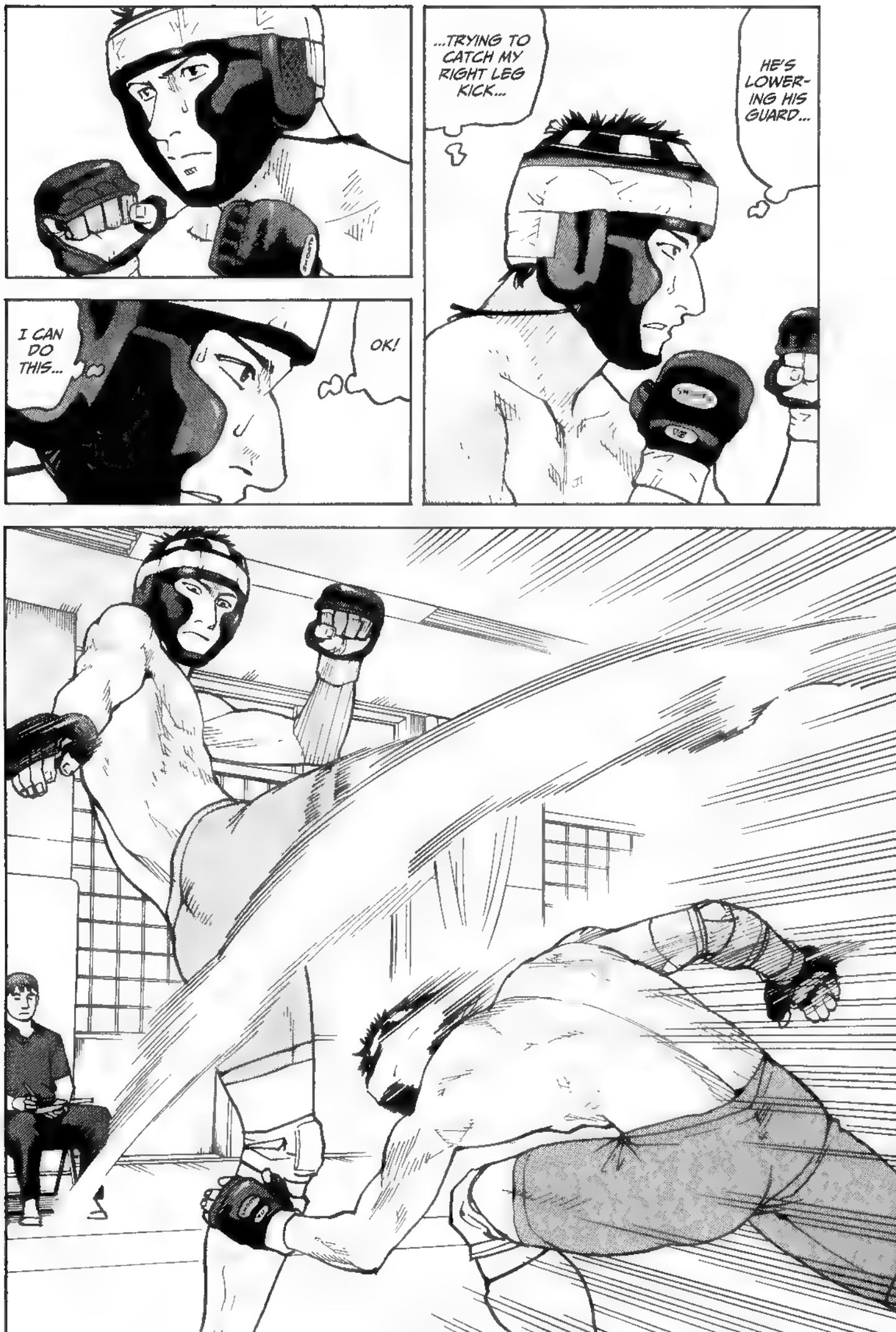
WATCH OUT FOR HIS HIGH KICK!
YUDAI! DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

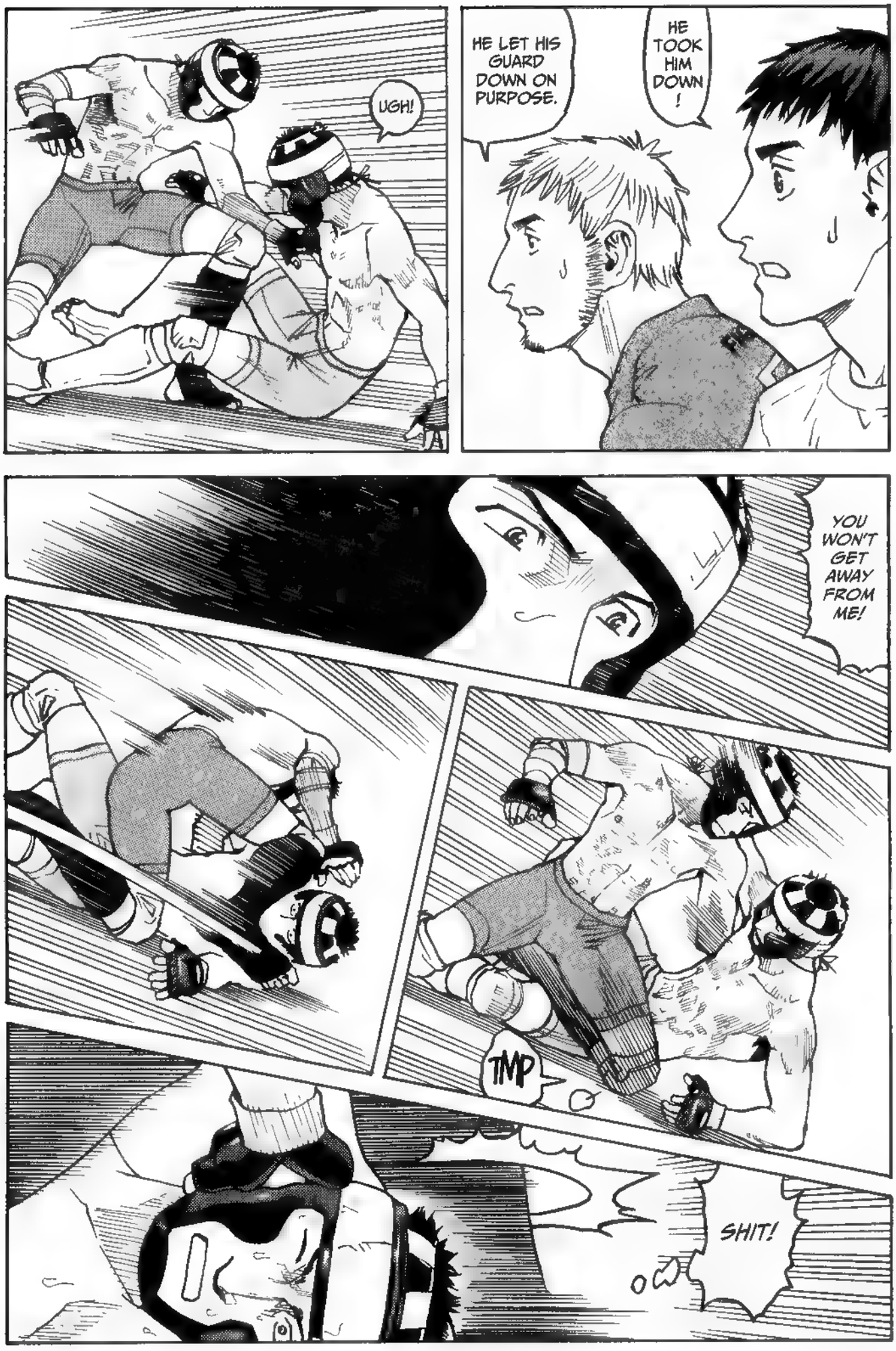
HRG!


IT SAYS HE'S A BLACK BELT IN FULL-CONTACT KARATE.
THE GUY'S GOT SOME SERIOUS POWER...
THAT LEG KICK LOOKED LIKE IT HURT.


THAT'S GOOD, HORI-UCHI!
KEEP UP THE LEG KICKS!
DUB
DUB

YUDAI'S CLOSE ENOUGH FOR A STRAIGHT RIGHT, BUT HE'S NOT GOING FOR IT...
SWINGING PUTS PRESSURE ON HIS ELBOW...


...TRYING TO CATCH MY RIGHT LEG KICK...
HE'S LOWERING HIS GUARD...
I CAN DO THIS...
OK!


UGH!
HE LET HIS GUARD DOWN ON PURPOSE.
HE TOOK HIM DOWN!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME!
TMP
SHIT!

ばっ
SHOOTO
TAP
TAP

THAT ARMBAR WAS SO QUICK I DIDN'T EVEN SEE IT COMING...
IS HE REALLY INJURED?
...
カーン
カーン
STOP!
!
THAT'S DANGER-OUS...
...YEAH.
DID YOU DRAW HIM INTO THAT HIGH KICK ON PURPOSE?
FIGHTERS BREW

GET READY, MEGURU.
...
YUDAI?
HUH?
UH...
YOU'D BETTER WIN.
...
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.
SORRY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?

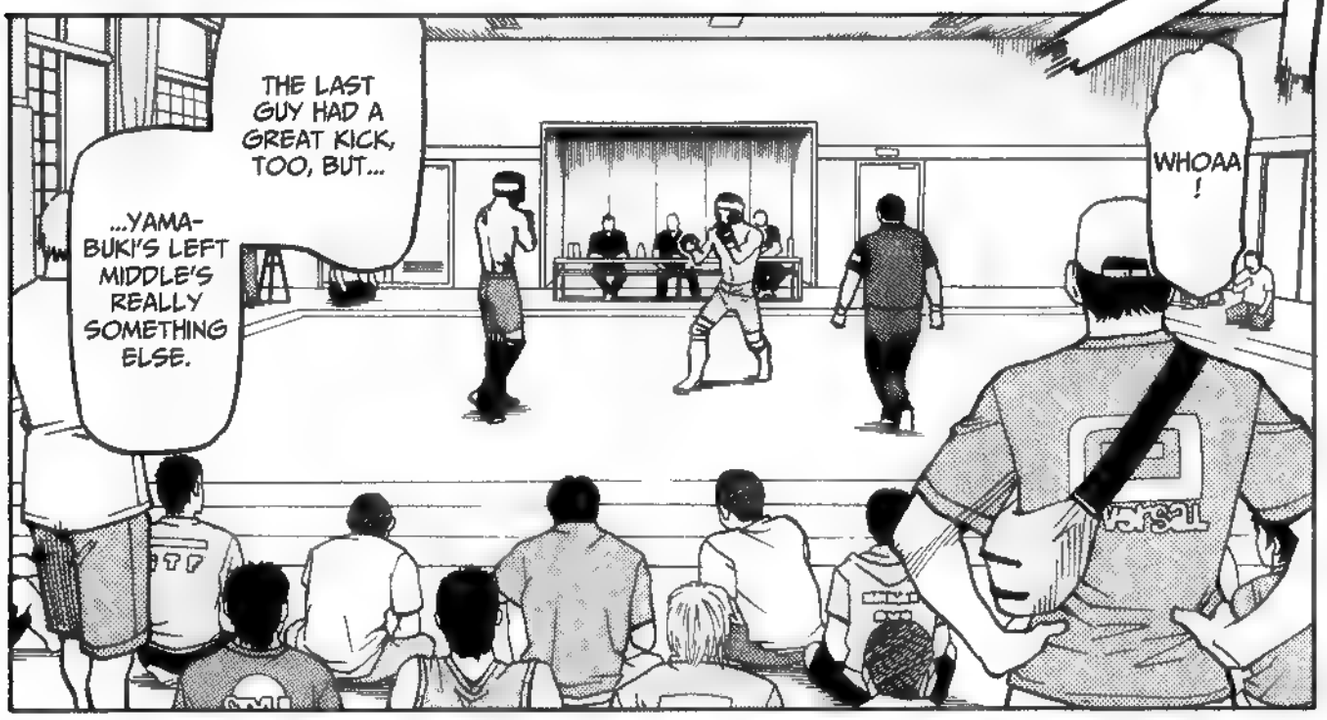
YUDAI.
AMATEUR SHOOTO ISN'T YOUR HIGH SCHOOL CLUB.
OF COURSE I TRIED, BUT...
IN FACT, THE OLDEST ENTRANT IN THIS COMPE-TITION IS 36.
IF YOU WANT TO, YOU CAN KEEP FIGHTING INTO YOUR 20S AND 30S.
...
BUT IF YOU GO OUT THERE AND MAKE YOUR ELBOW EVEN WORSE...
...YOU COULD LOSE HALF A YEAR.

I DON'T KNOW.
WHY'S HE SO SET ON IT?
HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING TO YOU?
AND HE STILL SAID HE WANTED TO DO IT?
... YEAH.
NO...
In the red corner with Kogure Dojo, Takashi Yamabuki!
!
Match 15, lightweight division, single-round.

...
Koichiro
Miwa!
And in the
blue corner
with Fight
Sanctuary...

OK!
IF YOU TAKE HIM DOWN, DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
JUST DO WHAT WE PRAC-TICED AND YOU'LL WIN.

FIGHT!

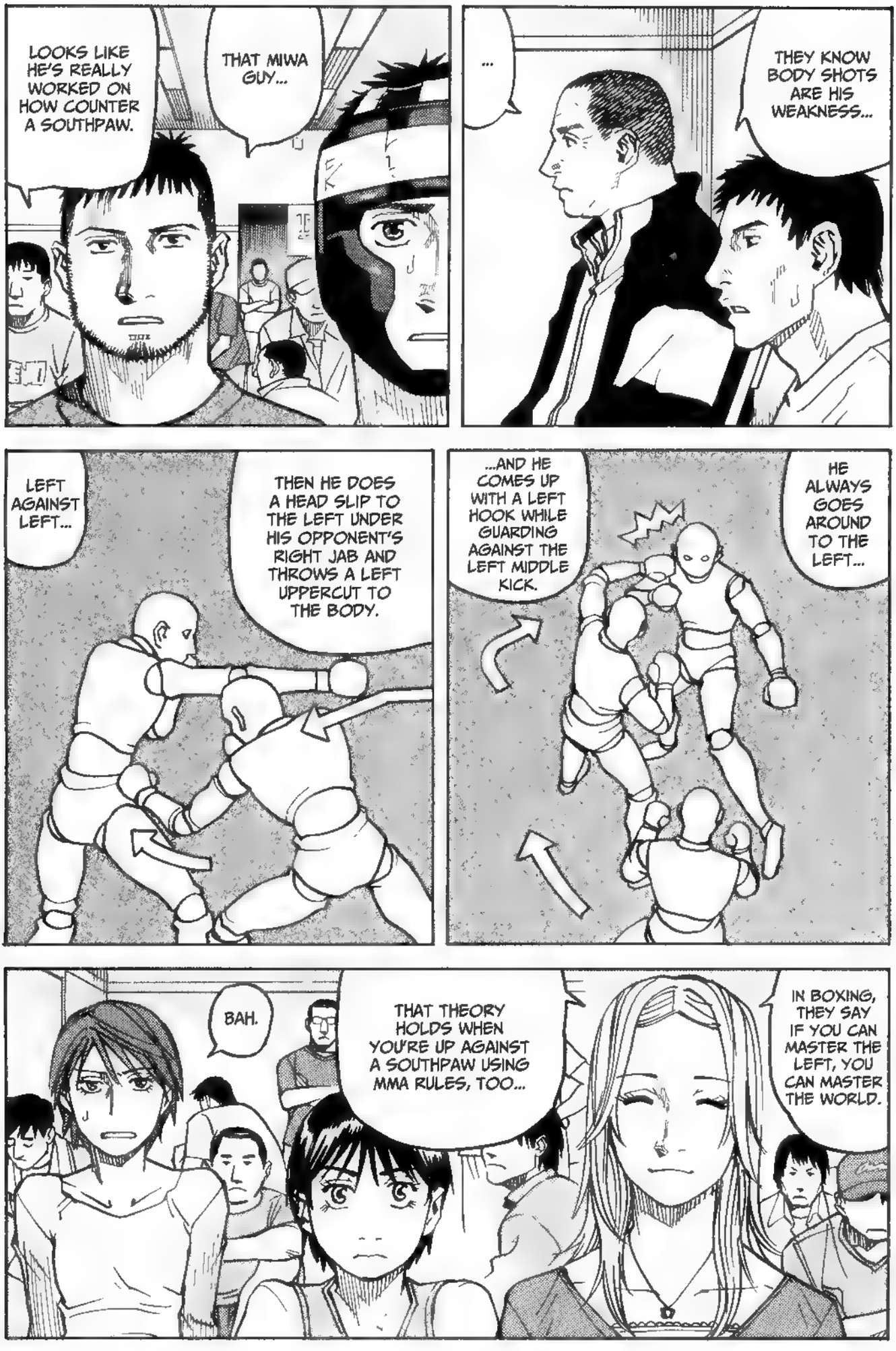

THE LAST GUY HAD A GREAT KICK, TOO, BUT...
...YAMABUKI'S LEFT MIDDLE'S REALLY SOMETHING ELSE.
WHOAA!

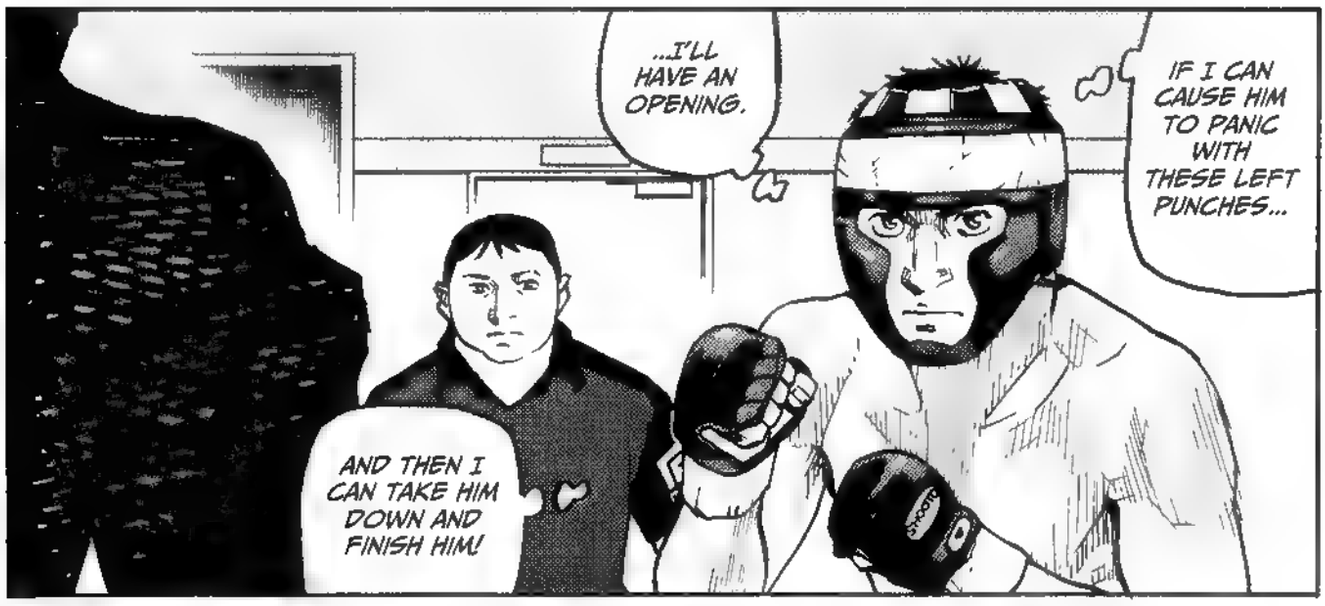
REMEMBER WHAT WE PRACTICED!
MIWA! STAY CALM!

!
SHOOTO
SHOOTO

THAT'S PRETTY TOUGH TO PULL OFF...
OHHH...
HE BLOCKED THAT LEFT HOOK!
...SO THERE ARE BOUND TO BE SOME ORTHODOX FIGHTERS WHO'LL COUNTER A LEFT MIDDLE KICK WITH A LEFT HOOK.
EVERYONE IN THIS TOURNAMENT IS GOOD ENOUGH TO WIN...
ボッ

JAB
JAB
TWINGE
TWINGE
!
IT WORKED ...!


LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY WORKED ON HOW COUNTER A SOUTHPAW.
THAT MIWA GUY...
...
THEY KNOW BODY SHOTS ARE HIS WEAKNESS...
LEFT AGAINST LEFT...
THEN HE DOES A HEAD SLIP TO THE LEFT UNDER HIS OPPONENT'S RIGHT JAB AND THROWS A LEFT UPPERCUT TO THE BODY.
...AND HE COMES UP WITH A LEFT HOOK WHILE GUARDING AGAINST THE LEFT MIDDLE KICK.
HE ALWAYS GOES AROUND TO THE LEFT...
BAH.
THAT THEORY HOLDS WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST A SOUTHPAW USING MMA RULES, TOO...
IN BOXING, THEY SAY IF YOU CAN MASTER THE LEFT, YOU CAN MASTER THE WORLD.

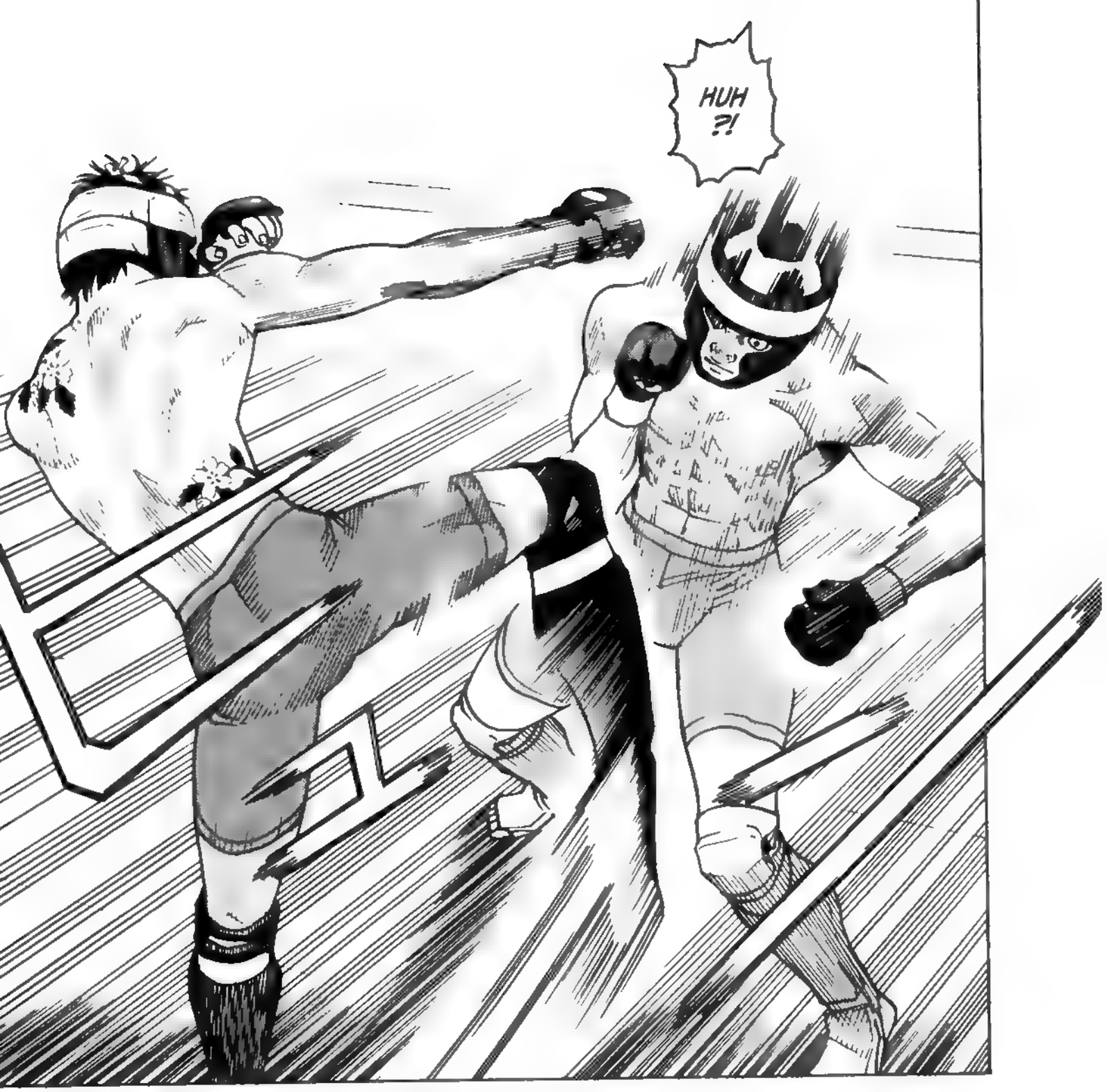

...I'LL HAVE AN OPENING.
IF I CAN CAUSE HIM TO PANIC WITH THESE LEFT PUNCHES...
AND THEN I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN AND FINISH HIM!

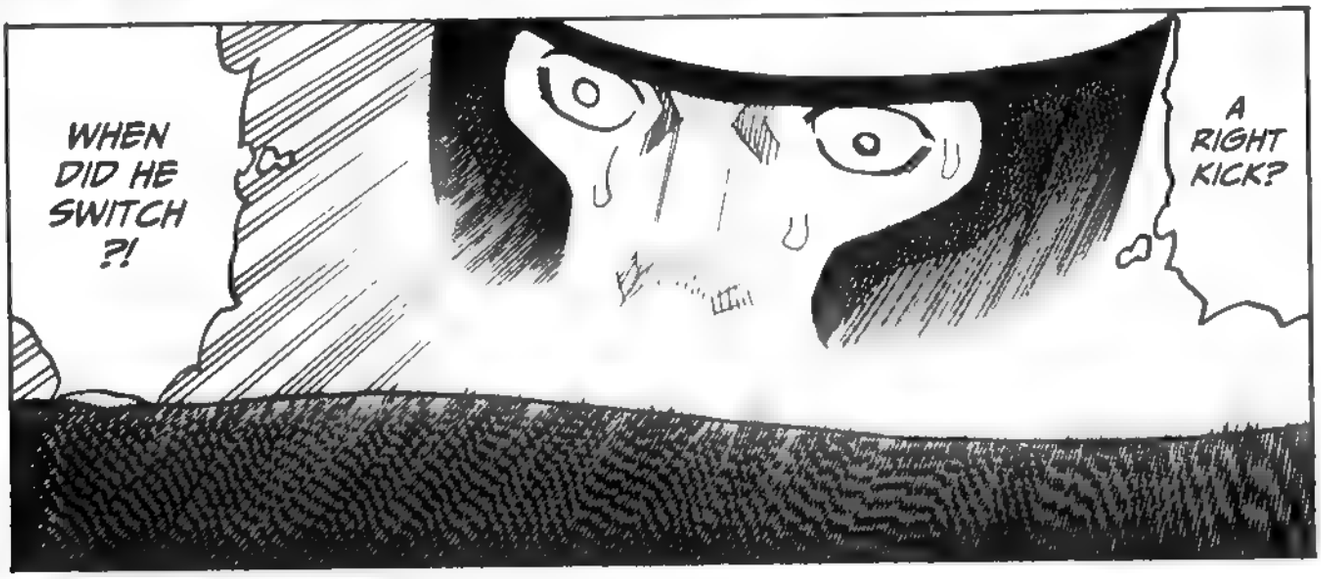
...

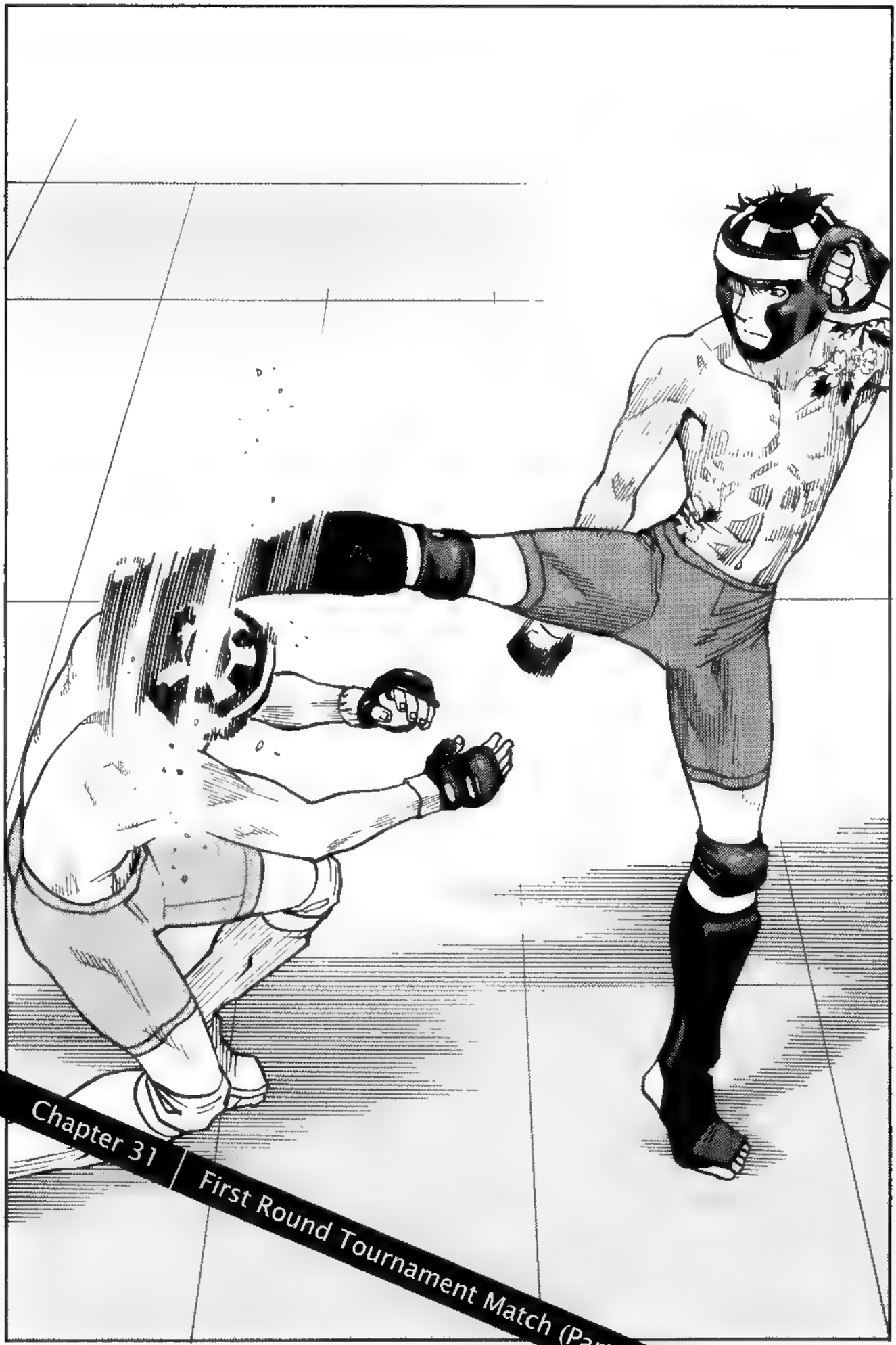
A STRAIGHT LEFT?!
TWITCH
NO!

JAB

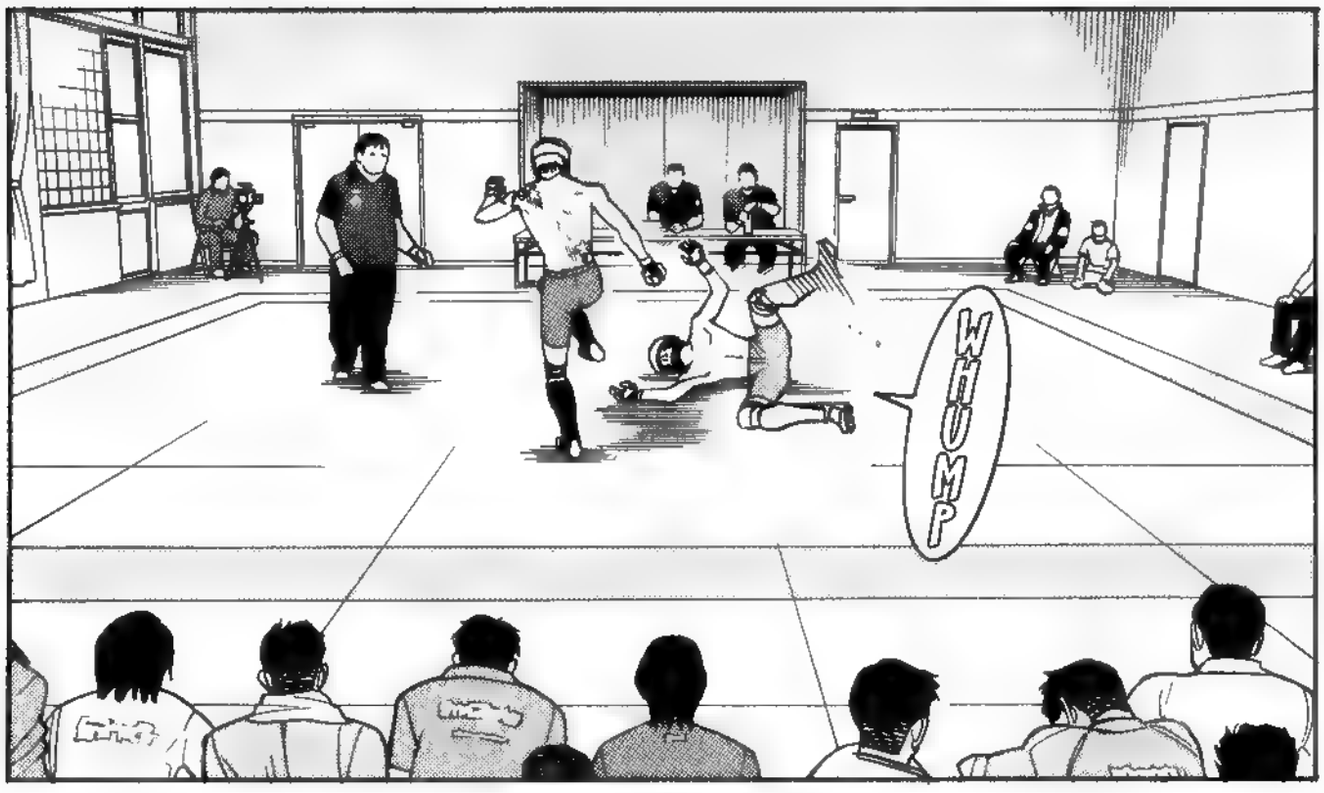
A RIGHT JAB!
!!
GOTCHA!


HUH ?!


WHEN DID HE SWITCH ?!
A RIGHT KICK?



Chapter 31 | First Round Tournament Match (Part 2)


WHUMP

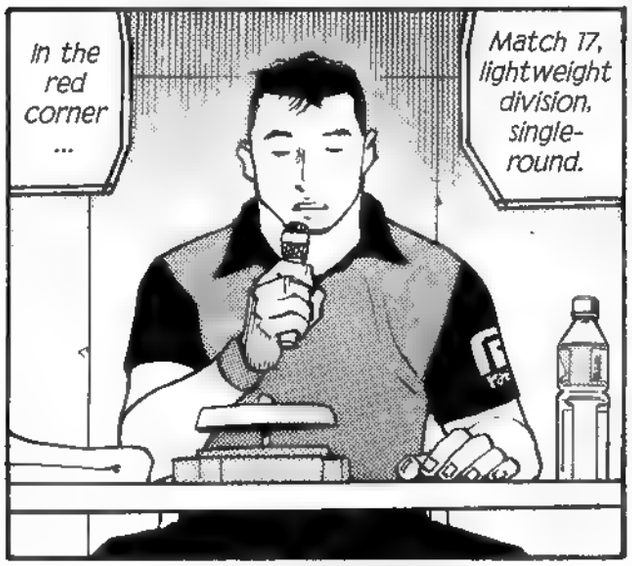
Match over!
...BUT HE WON THE SAME WAY HE ALWAYS DOES, BY KNOCKING HIS OPPONENT OUT.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT MAYBE HE WAS IN A PINCH...
!

ALL OF A SUDDEN HE'S FOCUSED ON THE MATCH.
JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO HE WAS DISTRACTED BY HIS CONCERN FOR YUDAI.
WELL ...
RE-GARD-LESS...
...
IF YOU WANT TO WIN,
HE'S THE ONE TO BEAT...

MEGURU, THAT'S YOUR OPPO-NENT.
YEAH.
HE'S A FAST STRIKER WHO'LL TRY TO OUT-BOX YOU.

WATCH OUT FOR HIS COUN-TERS.
GOT IT.
HE'S GONNA KEEP HIS DISTANCE, SO YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO COME AT HIM AND TAKE HIM DOWN YOURSELF.

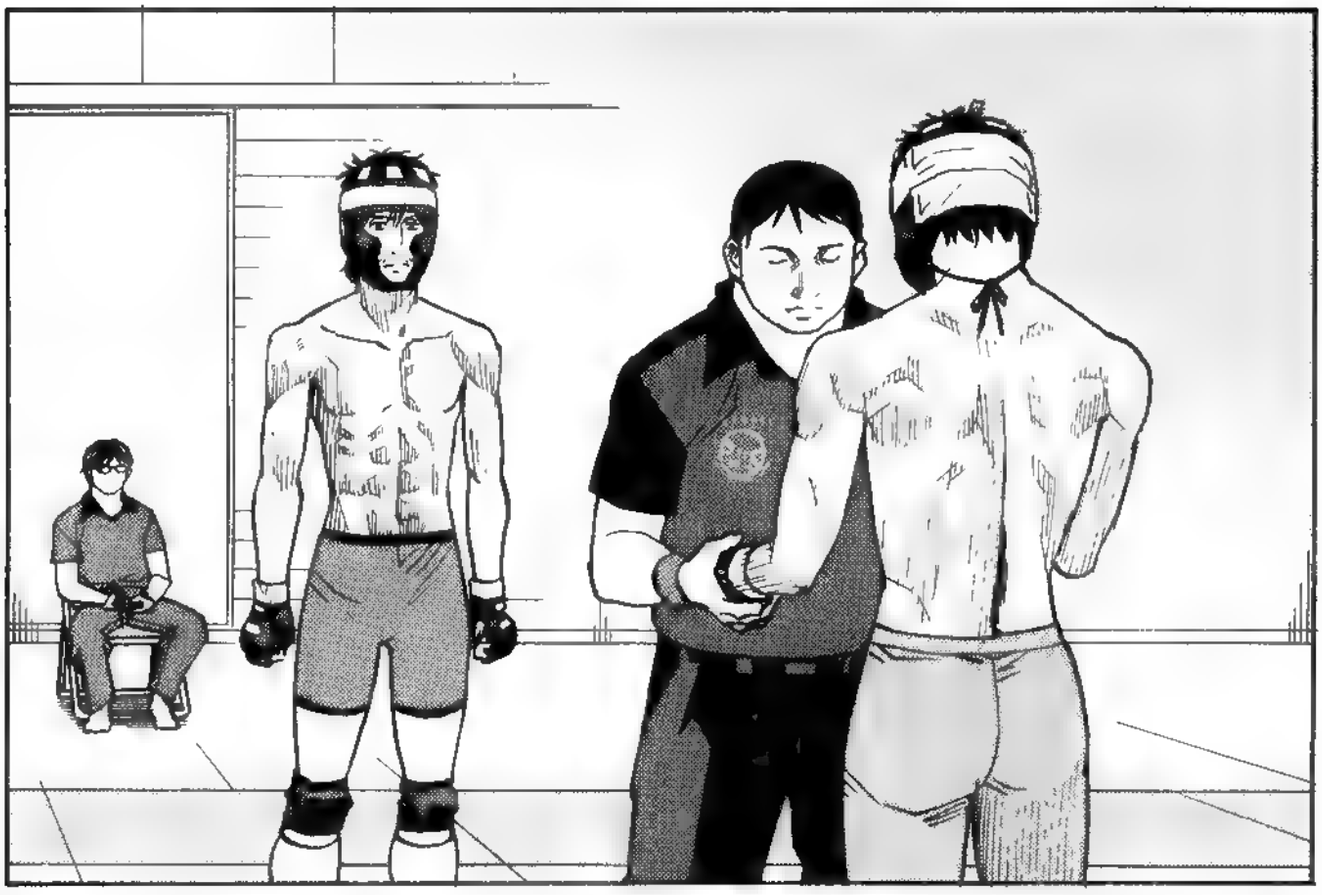
HE'S NEVER WON BY KO, BUT HE'S THE TYPE TO RACK UP POINTS WITH A STRONG DEFENSE COMBINED WITH HIS JABS AND COUNTERS.
HE HAS SOME TROUBLE WITH GRAPPLING AND WAS SUBMITTED TWICE.


In the red corner ...
Match 17, lightweight division, single-round.

...Shigeru Omaeda!
...with Y's Factory...

GET IN THE RING!

...Meguru Takayanagi!
And in the blue corner with Fighters Brew...

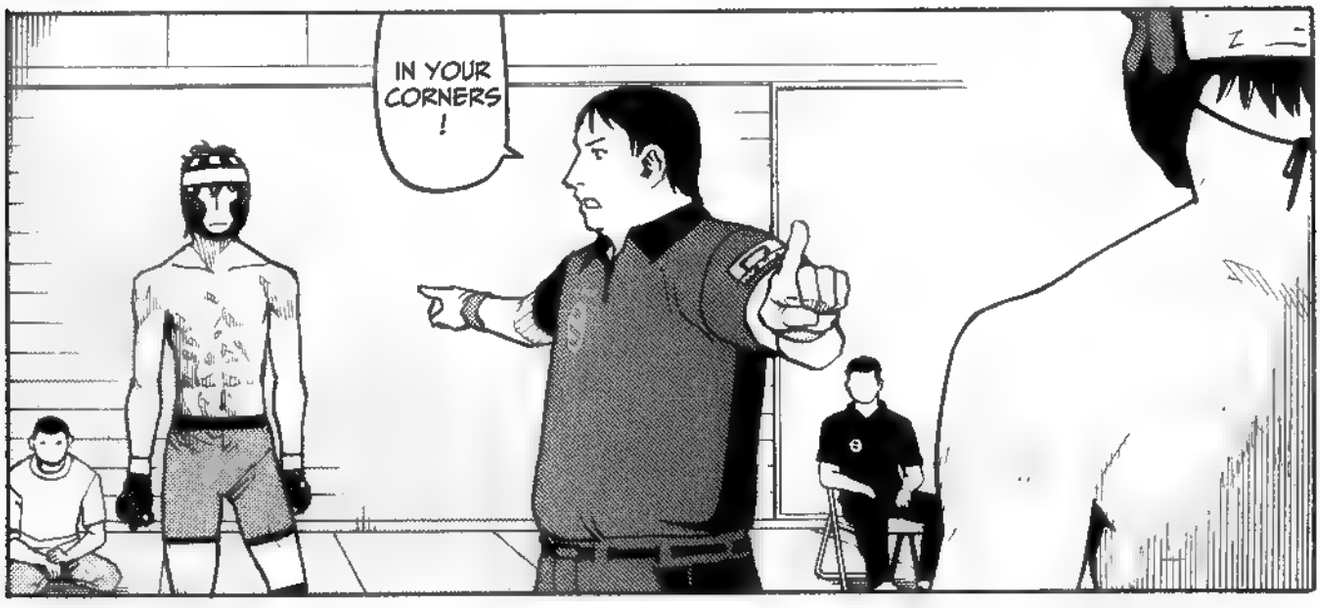


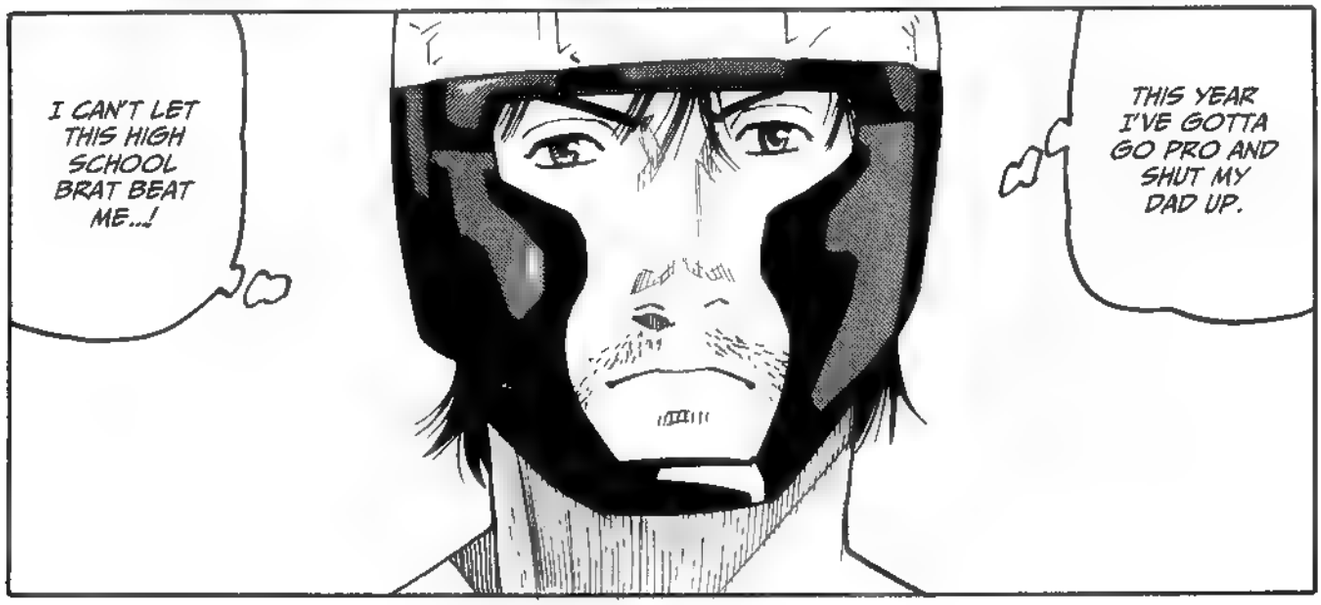
OSAKI FAILED HIS WEIGH-IN?!
WHAT?

...SO I'D BEEN PRACTICING MY GRAPPLING.
HE AND I ARE 1-1...
PROBABLY OVERDID IT ON THE WEIGHT TRAINING, RIGHT?

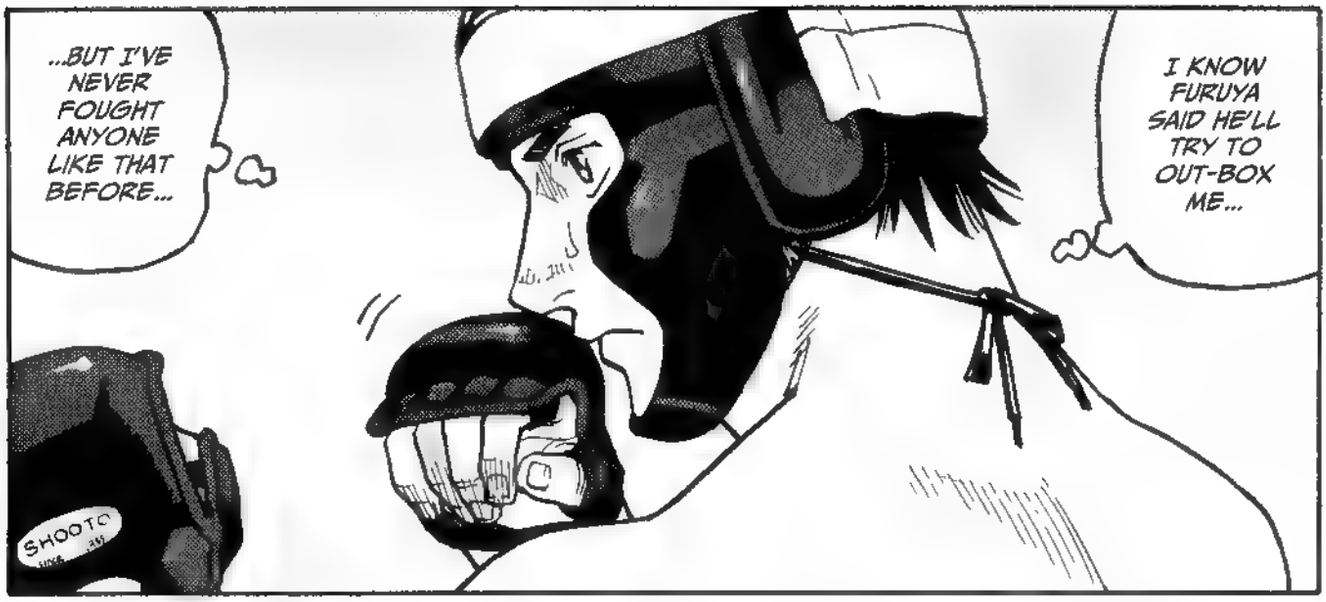
I'VE GOTTA WIN THIS THING AND GO PRO THIS YEAR...
IN ANY CASE ...
HE'S ONLY BEEN IN FOUR FIGHTS, BUT HE MANAGED TO SUBMIT OGASAWARA IN A GRAPPLING MATCH.
WHAT KIND OF FIGHTER IS THIS MEGURU TAKAYANAGI GUY?
HE CAN BE DANGEROUS ON THE GROUND, SO WATCH OUT.
IN HIGH SCHOOL, IT WAS BOXING...
IN ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL, IT WAS SOCCER.
I'VE BEEN HALF-ASSED ABOUT EVERYTHING...
MY DAD KEEPS NAGGING ME TO GO TO WORK FOR HIM...
I'M ALREADY 25.
IT'S CONSTRUCTION WORK, THOUGH.
CAN'T YOU WORK AND FIGHT AT THE SAME TIME?
I CAN'T BE DOING THAT AND GETTING BEAT UP...

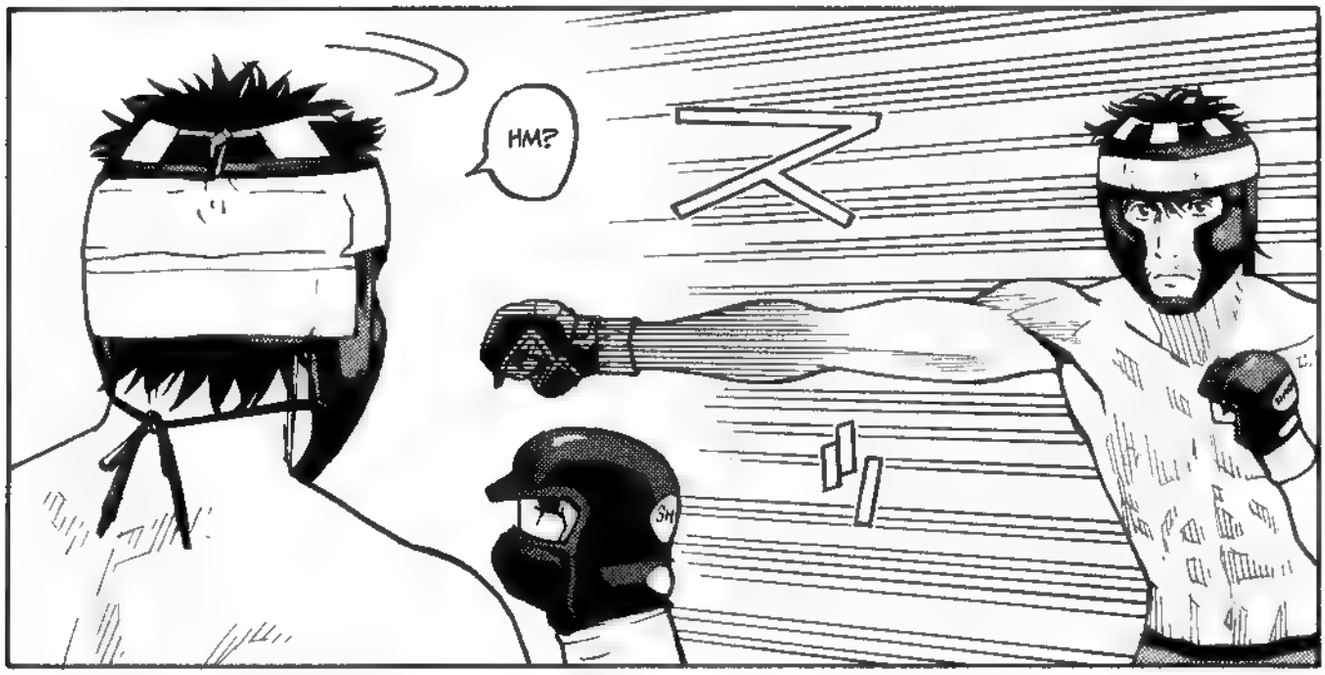
AT LEAST WITH SHOOTO ...
...I WANT TO LEAVE MY MARK SOMEHOW.

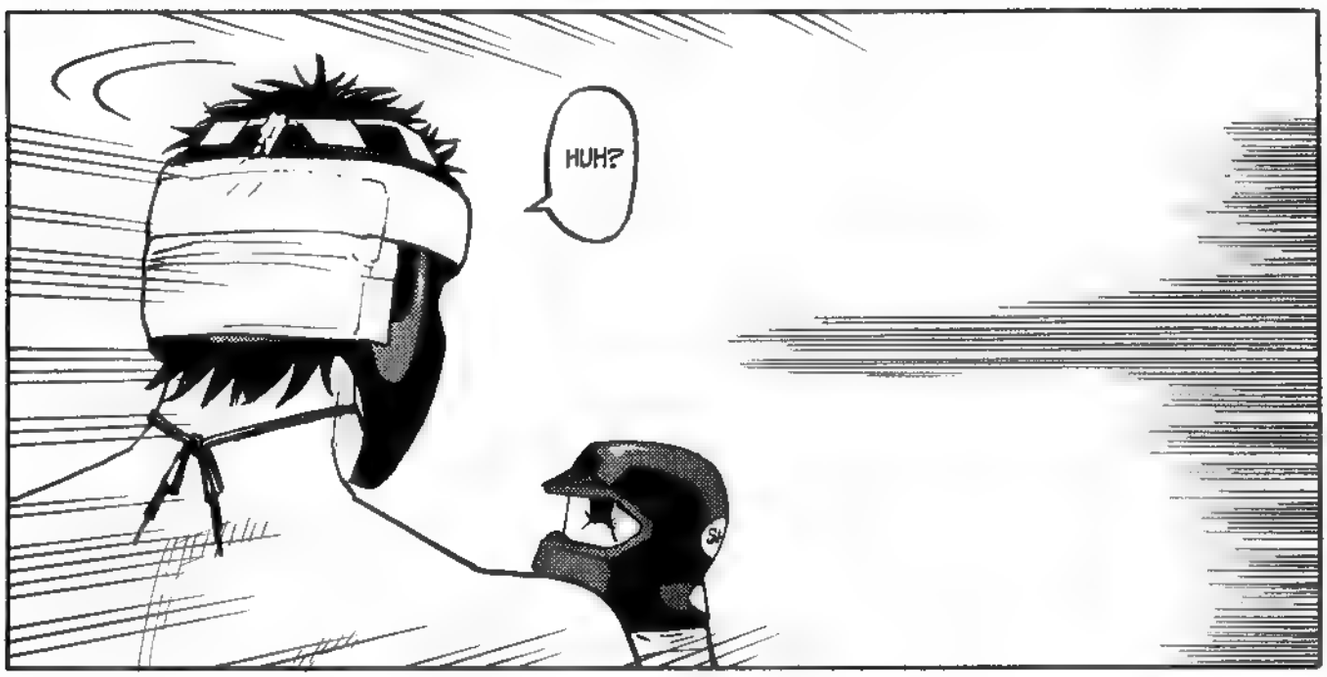

IN YOUR CORNERS !


I CAN'T LET THIS HIGH SCHOOL BRAT BEAT ME...!
THIS YEAR I'VE GOTTA GO PRO AND SHUT MY DAD UP.

HUFF
!
MEGU-RU!
TAKE A DEEP BREATH!
HAAA
FIGHT!


...BUT I'VE NEVER FOUGHT ANYONE LIKE THAT BEFORE...
I KNOW FURUYA SAID HE'LL TRY TO OUT-BOX ME...
SHOOTO


HM?


HUH?

SHOOT
AGK!
WAIT!
HUH?
WHA
?

UGH!
AHH!
HE'S GONE!
SWISH
!
MEGURU! BACK-STEP!
WATCH HIS WHOLE BODY!

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT THERE...
THE MINUTE I LOWER MY GUARD, HE COMES AFTER ME.
WAH!
WAH!
WAH!
ビュッ
ビュッ
THIS TIME HE WENT AROUND TO THE LEFT!
AHH!
HIS STYLE IS PUNCH-FOCUSED, THOUGH...
MEGURU JUST CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THAT GUY'S SPEED AND FOOTWORK...

IT'S HARD TO BLOCK A KICK WHEN YOU'RE BENT FORWARD LIKE THAT.
HE'S DODGING ALL OF MEGURU'S LEG KICKS JUST BY BACK-STEPPING.
BUT STILL...
MY LEFT MIDDLE WOULD CONNECT.
WELL, YOU'RE A SOUTH-PAW!
...AND HE'S NOT KICKING AT ALL.
BUT HE PRACTICED SO MUCH...
SHOOTO
A RIGHT MIDDLE KICK STILL HAS A LONGER REACH THAN THE OPPO-NENT'S JAB.
AT THIS DISTANCE, THE BEST CHOICE WOULD BE A LONG MIDDLE KICK, RIGHT?

IF HE DOESN'T RELAX,
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET HIS LEG ABOVE HIS WAIST...

REALLY ?
BUT HE CAN'T LAND A KICK WITHOUT GAUGING THE DISTANCE WITH A JAB FIRST, RIGHT?
YOU'RE DIFFER-ENT.
BESIDES, MEGURU'S ALL TENSE AND NERVOUS.

pant
pant
WHAT ELSE WAS ALL THAT PRACTICE FOR?!
I'VE GOTTA GET CLOSER AND SHOOT FOR A TAKEDOWN!

!
SHOOTO

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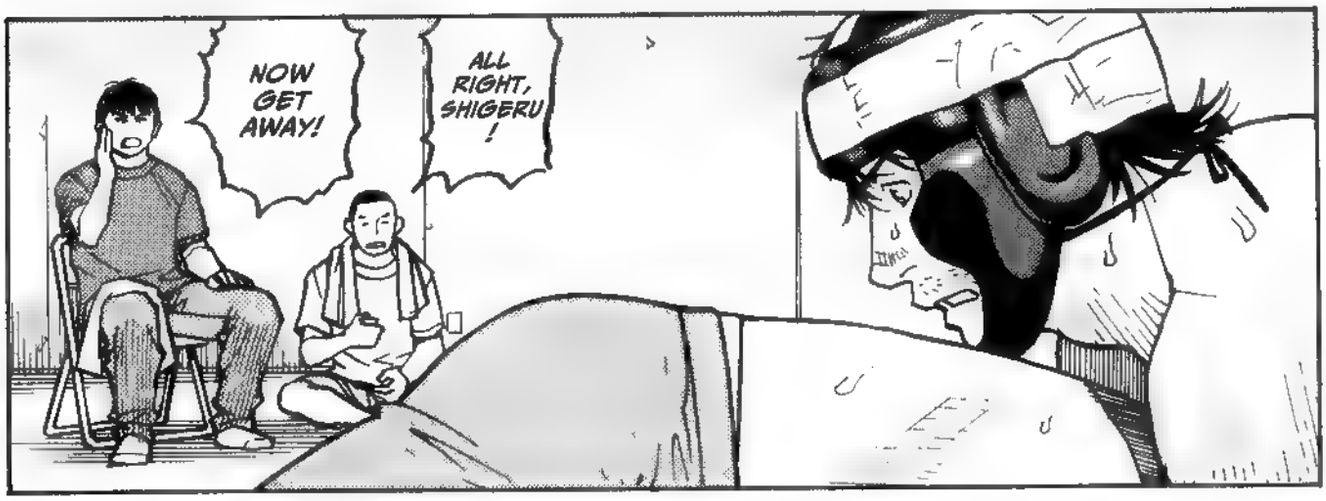
ユッ

I'M NOT DONE YET!

HE TOTALLY DODGED IT!

ヨ!!


NOW GET AWAY!
ALL RIGHT, SHIGERU!

はぁ

HE'S TOTALLY KEEPING HIM OUT OF RANGE...
MEGURU! TWO MINUTES LEFT!

BLUE! GET UP.
BUT I PRACTICED SO HARD...
pant
pant

pant
pant
DON'T GIVE UP!
WE'RE ONLY HALFWAY THROUGH ...
pant

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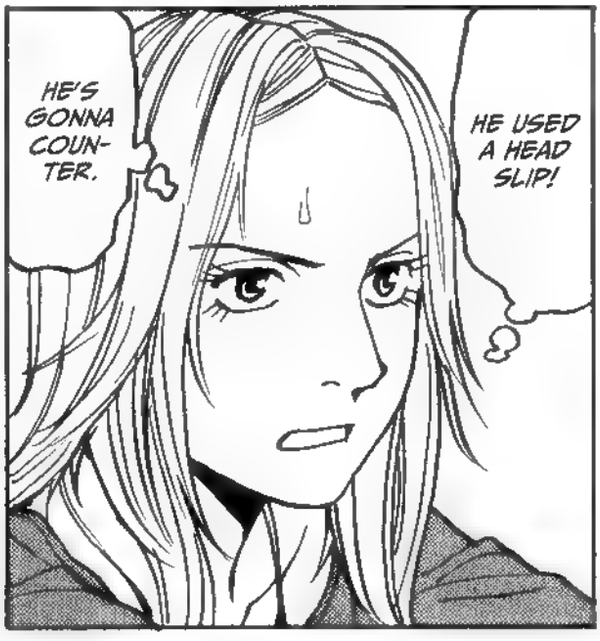
ヒュ
ヒュ

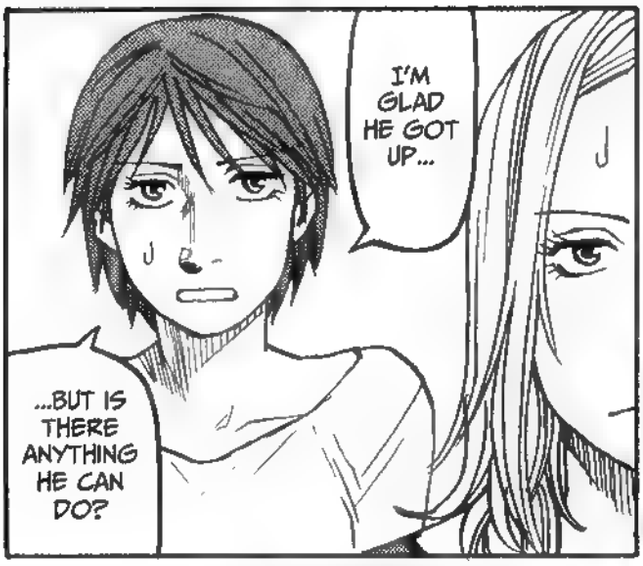
THEN A STRAIGHT RIGHT TO THE BODY...
JAB NEXT.

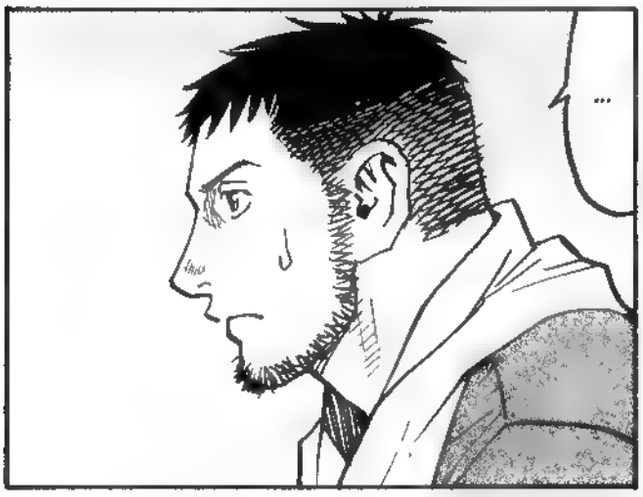

HE'S GONNA COUNTER.
HE USED A HEAD SLIP!

!!

THREE!
SHIT, WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
A COUNTER?!

ONE!
DOWN!
TWO!


I'M GLAD HE GOT UP...
...BUT IS THERE ANYTHING HE CAN DO?


...

FOUR!
ばっ

huff
huff

I'LL GO ON TO THE SECOND ROUND WITH NO DAMAGE...
I CAN BEAT HIM IF I KEEP THE FIGHT STANDING!

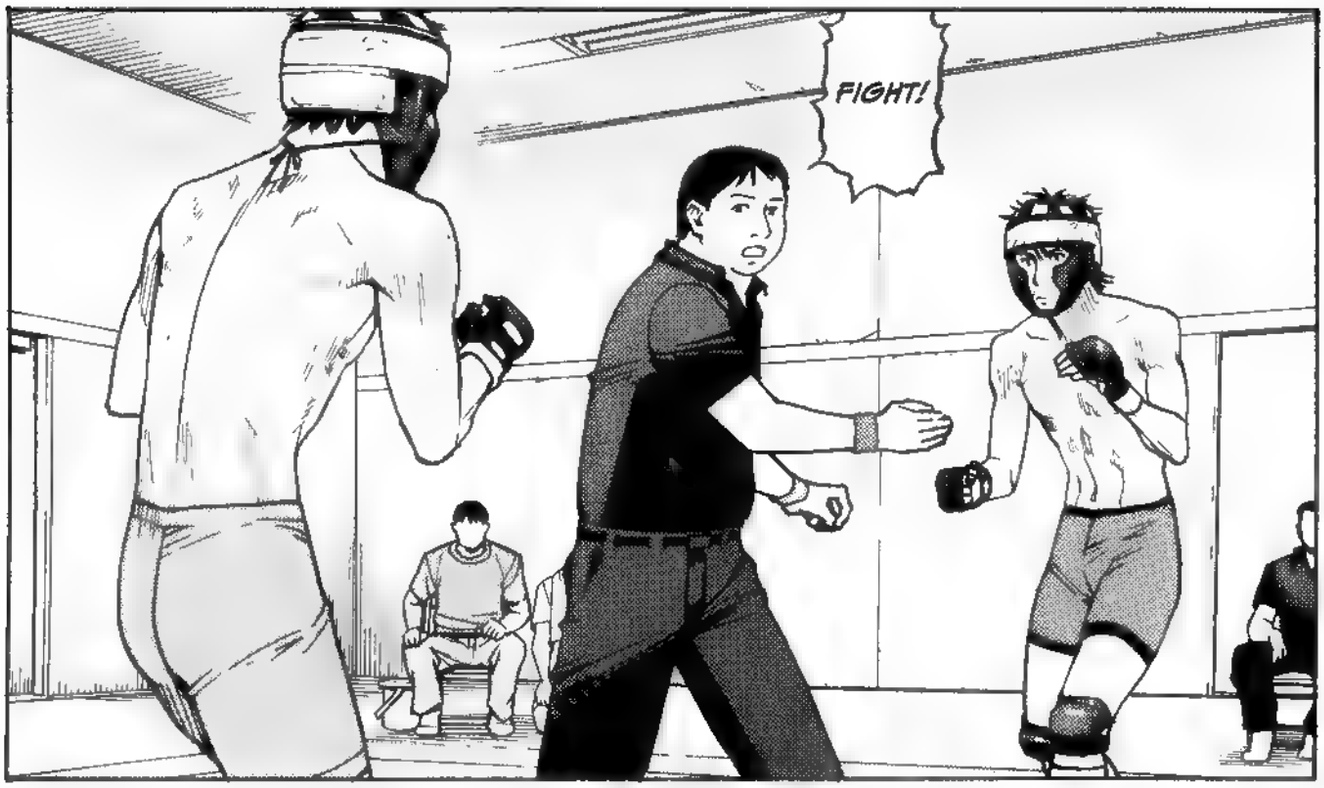
Chapter 32 | First Round Tournament Match (Part 3)

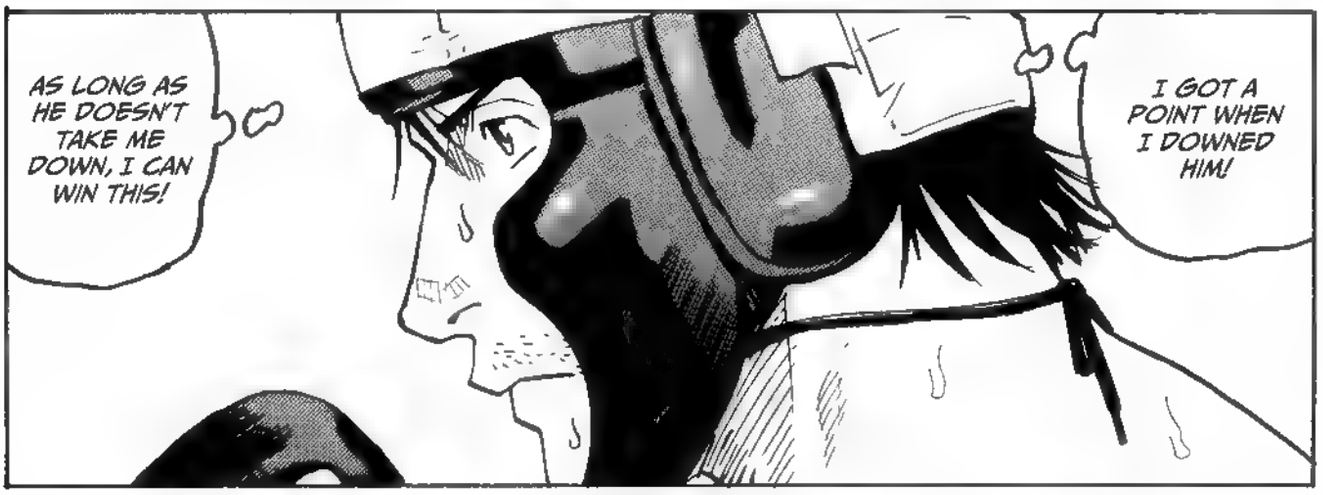
...BUT IS THERE ANYTHING HE CAN DO?
I'M GLAD HE GOT UP...

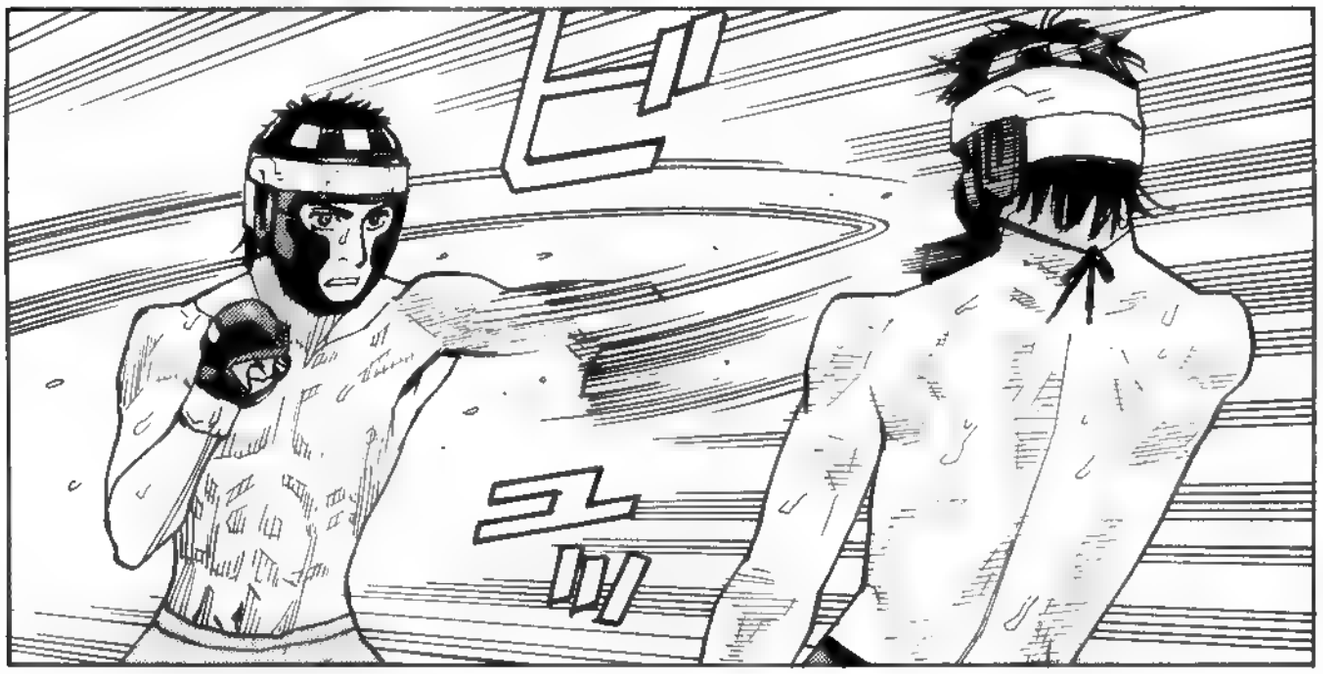
...THAT MEGURU WAS GOING FOR HIS BODY.
HE SAW ...

HE COUNTERED WITH A LEFT HOOK...

I'M NEVER GONNA GET ANY-WHERE LIKE THIS!
I HAVE TO CHANGE THE RHYTHM OF MY OFFENSE.

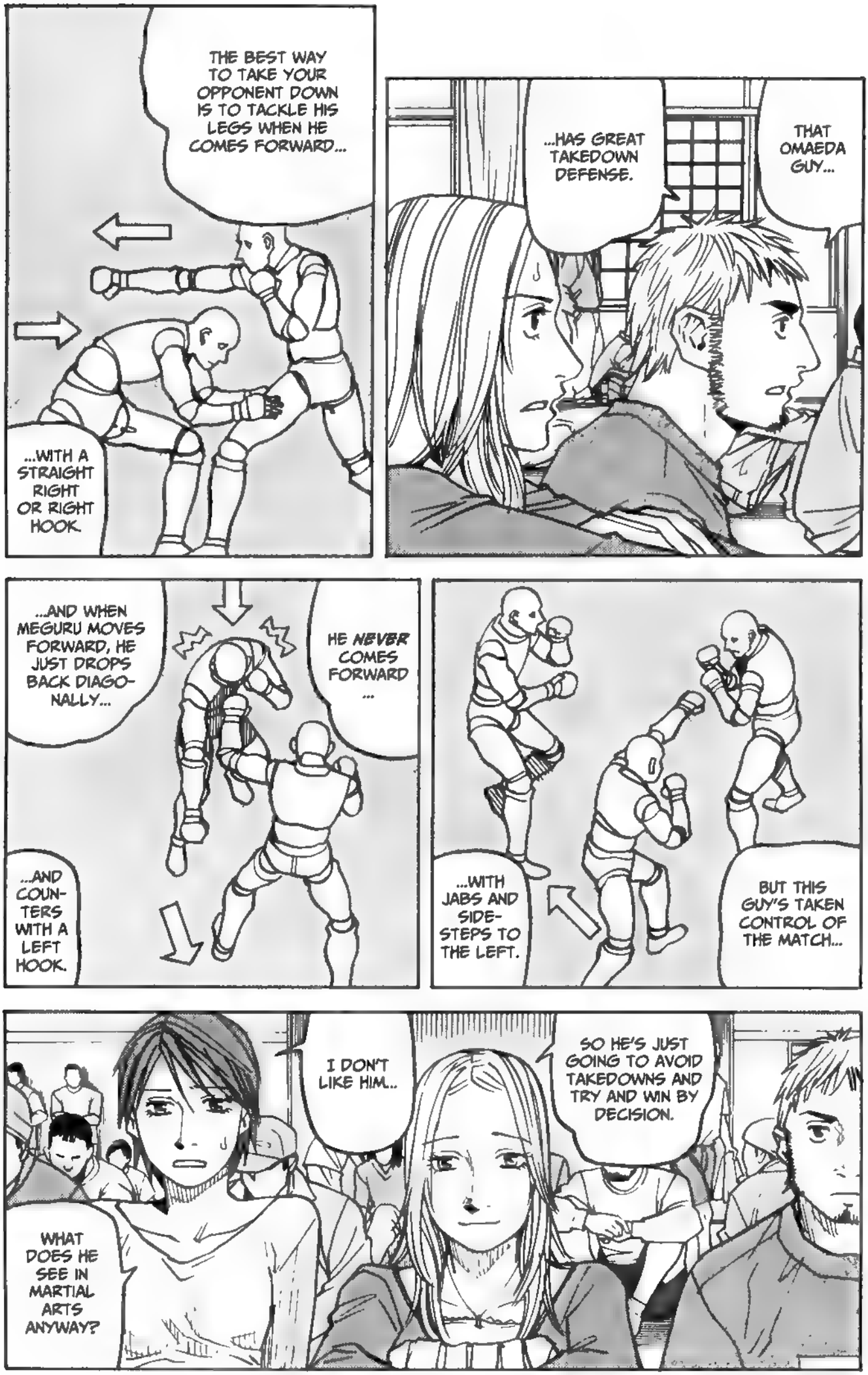

FIGHT!


AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T TAKE ME DOWN, I CAN WIN THIS!
I GOT A POINT WHEN I DOWNED HIM!


ヒリ
ユ

IS HE PLANNING TO JUST KEEP RUNNING UNTIL TIME'S UP...?
MEGURU! YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE THE OFFENSIVE!
ヒュッ
BUT HOW?
I KNOW I NEED TO CHANGE MY RHYTHM ...
ヒュッ

ダッ
WAH!
ぱっ
ガッ
...DOESN'T WORK WELL AGAINST SOMEONE WHO CAN JUST BACKSTEP DIAGONALLY.
pant
pant
GUESS A JAB-TAKEDOWN COMBO...


THE BEST WAY TO TAKE YOUR OPPONENT DOWN IS TO TACKLE HIS LEGS WHEN HE COMES FORWARD...
...WITH A STRAIGHT RIGHT OR RIGHT HOOK.
...HAS GREAT TAKEDOWN DEFENSE.
THAT OMAEDA GUY...
...AND WHEN MEGURU MOVES FORWARD, HE JUST DROPS BACK DIAGONALLY...
HE NEVER COMES FORWARD ...
...AND COUNTERS WITH A LEFT HOOK.
...WITH JABS AND SIDESTEPS TO THE LEFT.
BUT THIS GUY'S TAKEN CONTROL OF THE MATCH...
I DON'T LIKE HIM..
SO HE'S JUST GOING TO AVOID TAKEDOWNS AND TRY AND WIN BY DECISION.
WHAT DOES HE SEE IN MARTIAL ARTS ANYWAY?

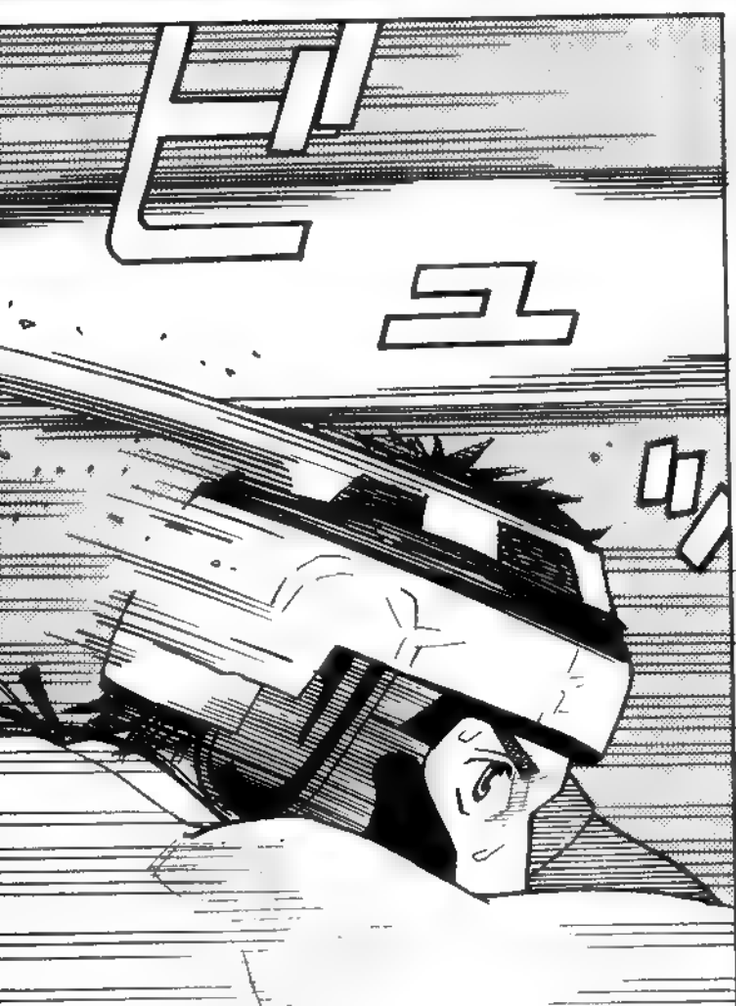
!
...THIS SORT OF STRAT-EGY MAKES SENSE.
IT'S WHAT I USED TO DO MYSELF.
IT'S DIFFERENT FOR EVERYBODY, ISN'T IT?
IF YOU'RE NOT A GLUTTON FOR PUNISH-MENT AND ARE PHYSICALLY WEAKER...
...
BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, IS IT...?
IF HE WERE FASTER AND COULD GET IN ONE GOOD PUNCH...
SO HOW CAN MEGURU BEAT HIM?
HMM...
SO THEN WHAT?

OH YEAH, MARIA SAID...
huff
..."REMEMBER THE PROPER KARATE ENGAGEMENT DISTANCE."
huff
CRE-ATIVITY?
DOESN'T SOUND VERY RELIABLE ...
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN GET ANY FASTER...
SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?
AT THIS RATE I'M GONNA LOSE!
I'VE GOTTA TAKE HIM DOWN SOME-HOW!
MEGURU! ONE MINUTE 30 SECONDS LEFT!

I JUST HAVE TO GO WITH THE LEFT HOOK AGAIN!
NOW THAT WE'RE AT A STALEMATE, HE'S FALLEN INTO THE SAME PATTERN.
I'VE GOTTA AIM FOR WHEN HE CLOSES IN!
HE'S GONNA COME IN FOR A COUNTER..!

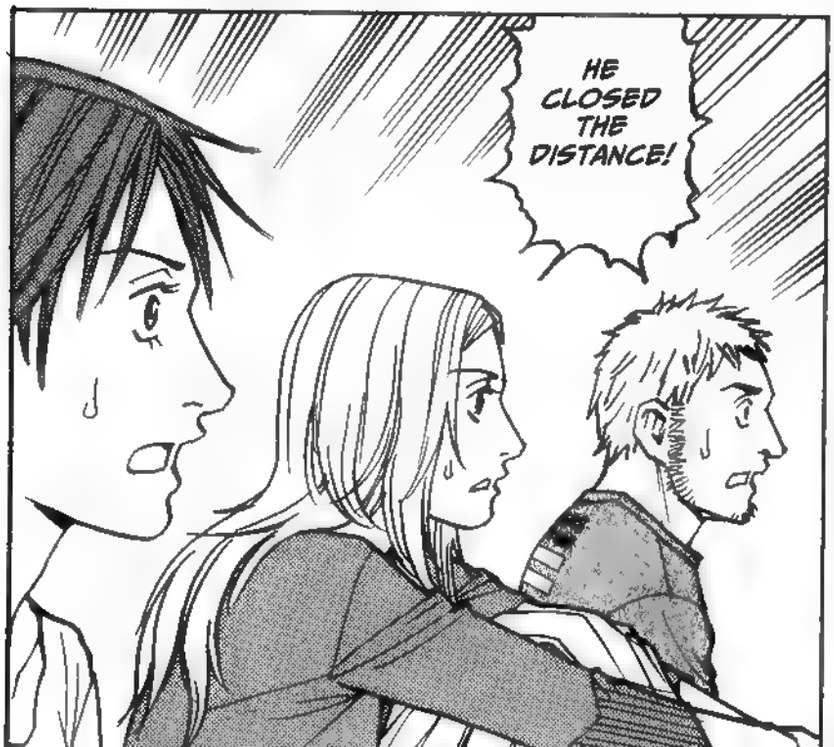
ヒュ
ヒュ
GOT 'IM!
ANOTHER RIGHT BODY BLOW?
WOOSH
WHA ?!

HOW ?!
HE'S SO CLOSE ?!



!

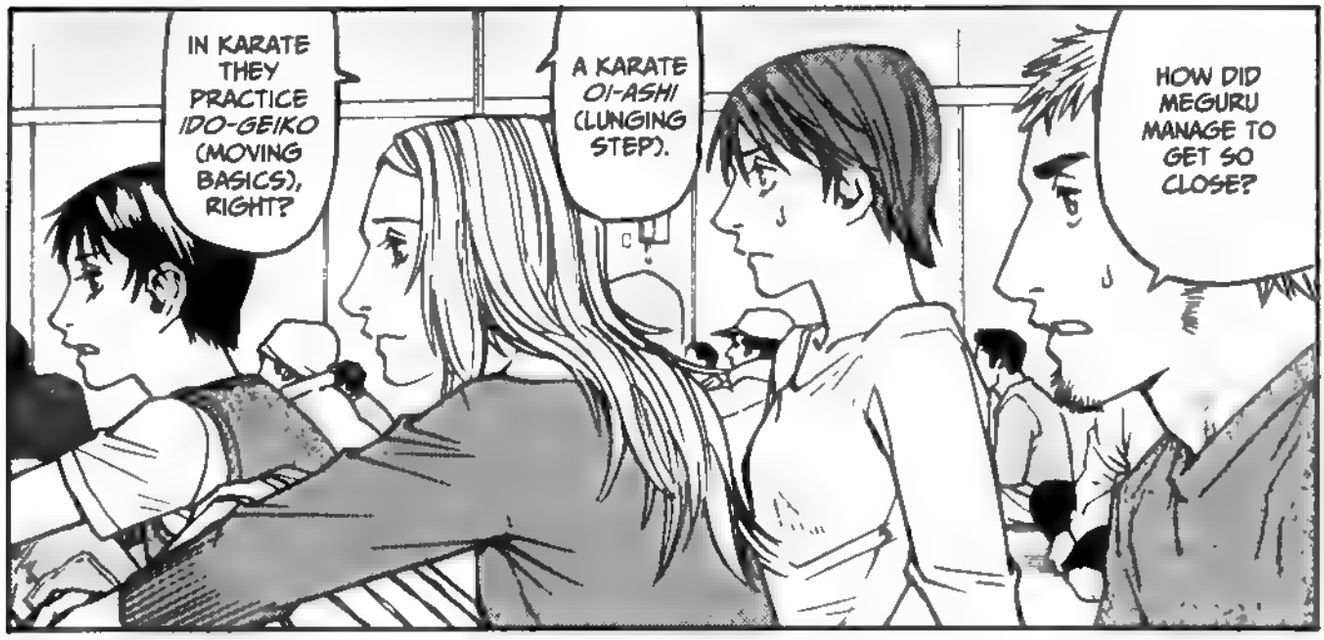
*LUNGING SIDE PUNCH.

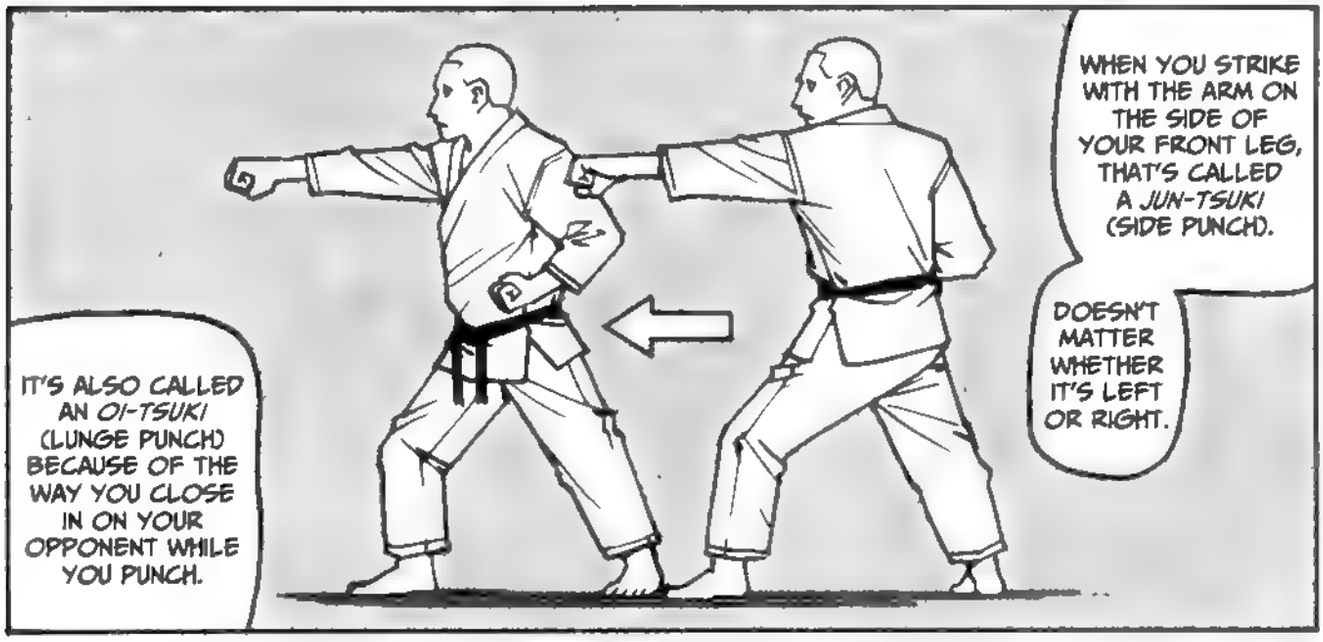


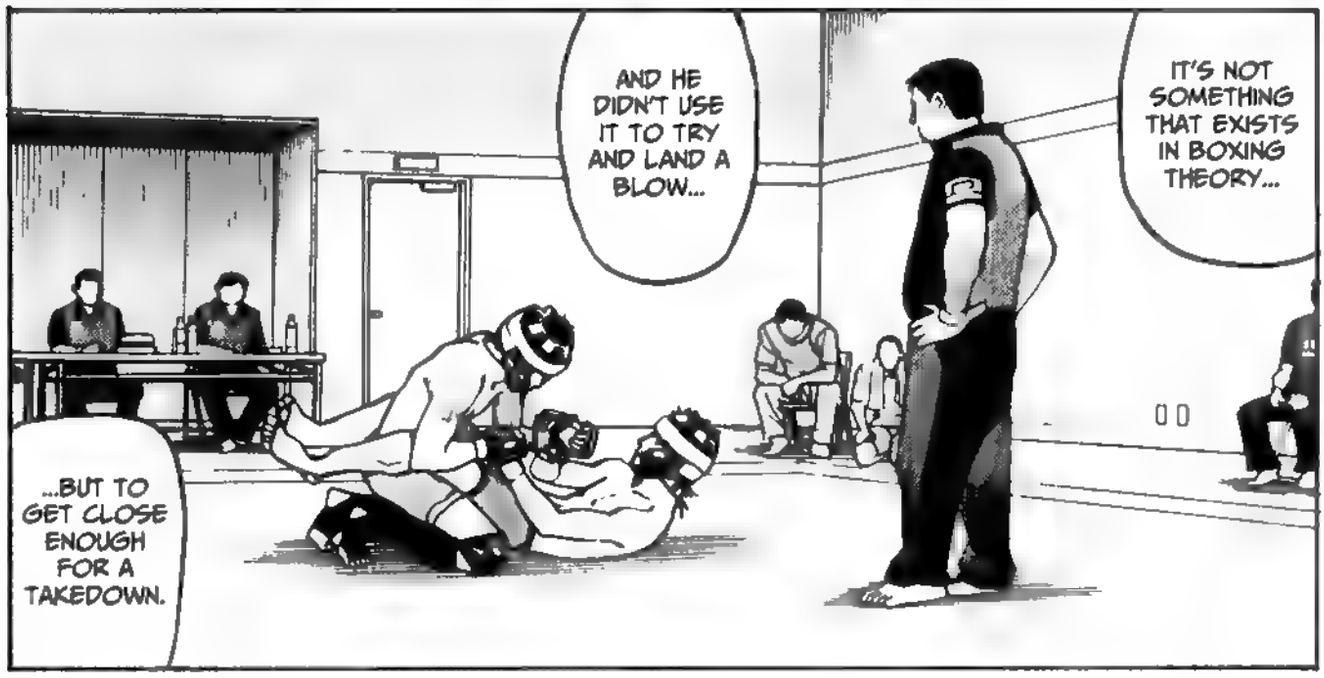
ダッ

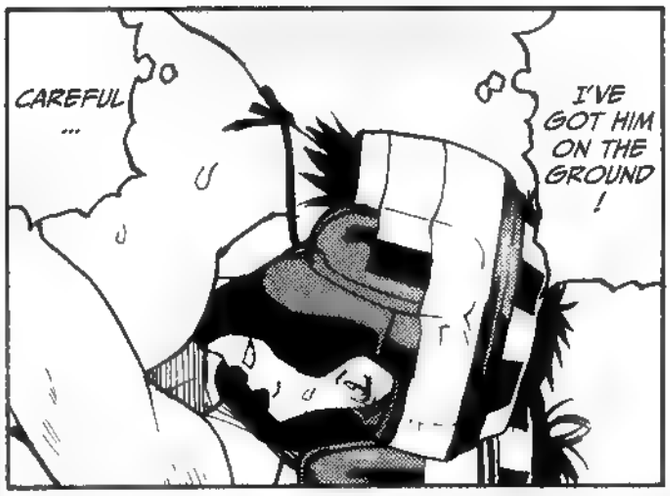
YOU GOT A POINT, MEGURU!
TAKE-DOWN!
TOP.
BLUE.

KEEP HIM DOWN!
THAT'S IT, MEGURU!
ガッ


IN KARATE THEY PRACTICE *IDO-GEIKO* (MOVING BASICS), RIGHT?
A KARATE *OI-ASHI* (LUNGING STEP).
HOW DID MEGURU MANAGE TO GET SO CLOSE?

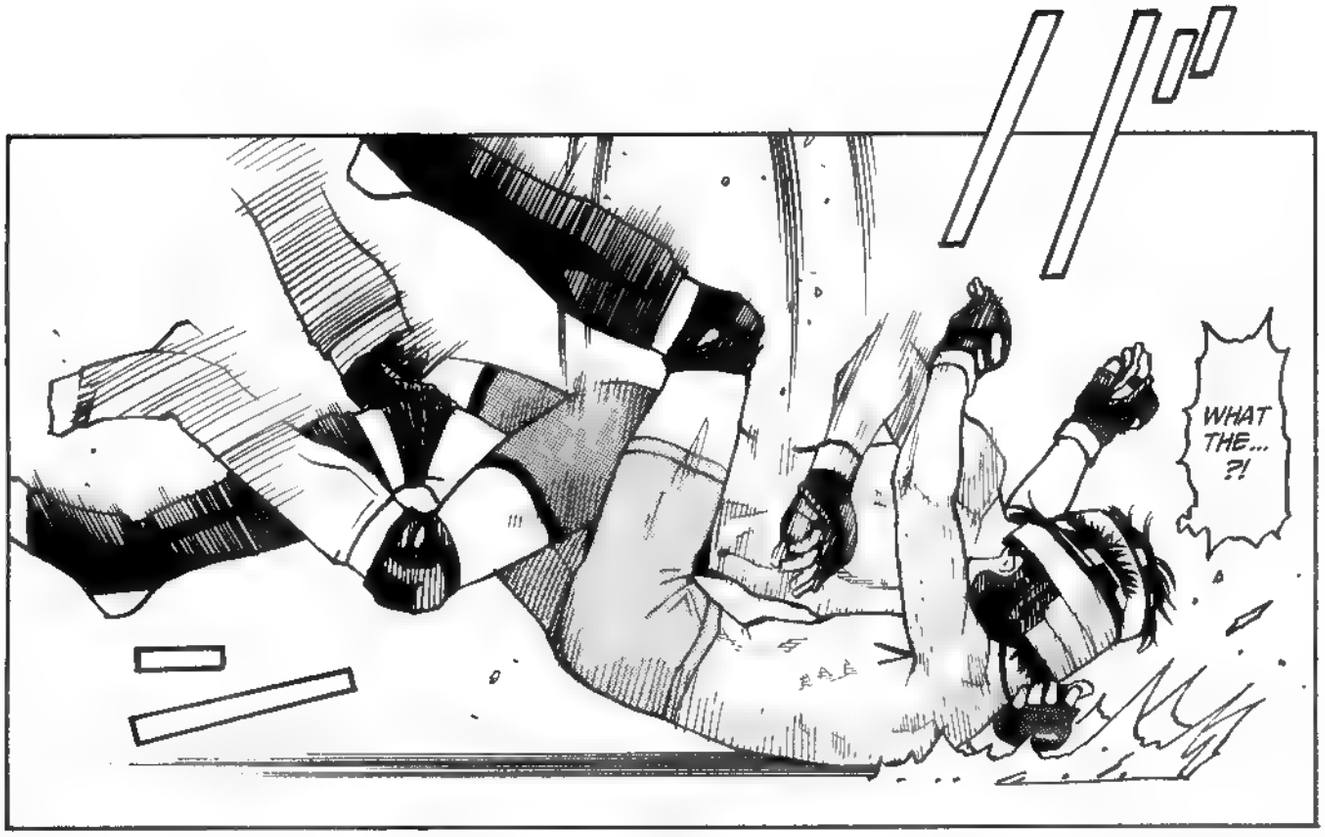

WHEN YOU STRIKE WITH THE ARM ON THE SIDE OF YOUR FRONT LEG, THAT'S CALLED A *JUN-TSUKI* (SIDE PUNCH).
DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S LEFT OR RIGHT.
IT'S ALSO CALLED AN *OI-TSUKI* (LUNGE PUNCH) BECAUSE OF THE WAY YOU CLOSE IN ON YOUR OPPONENT WHILE YOU PUNCH.

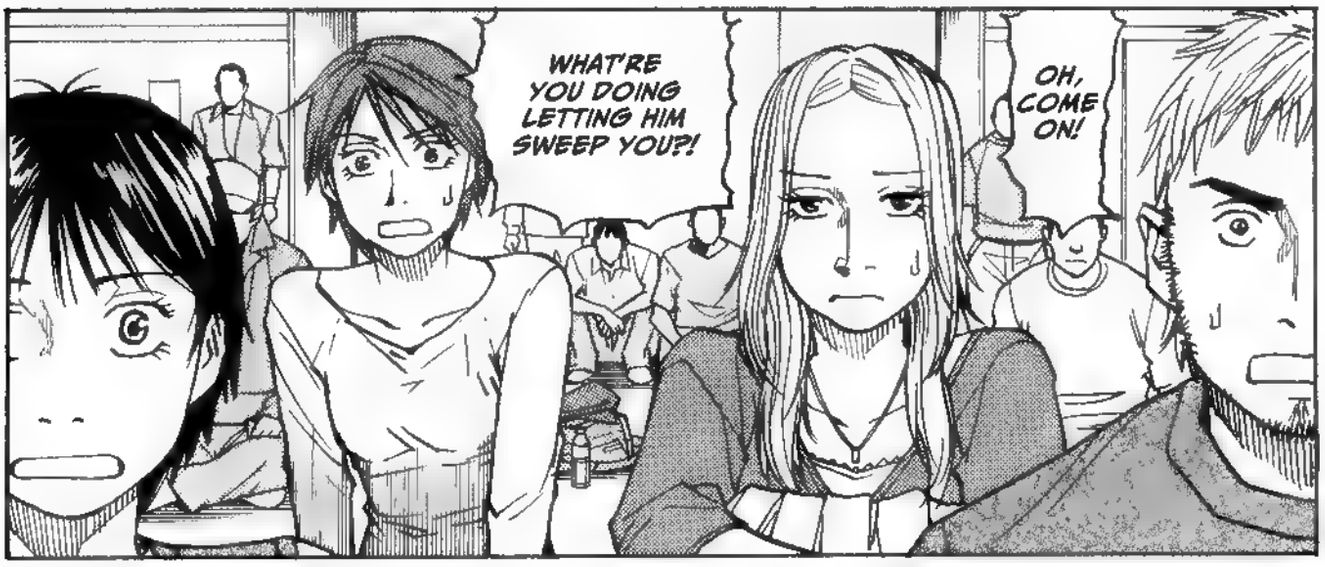

AND HE DIDN'T USE IT TO TRY AND LAND A BLOW...
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT EXISTS IN BOXING THEORY...
...BUT TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH FOR A TAKEDOWN.

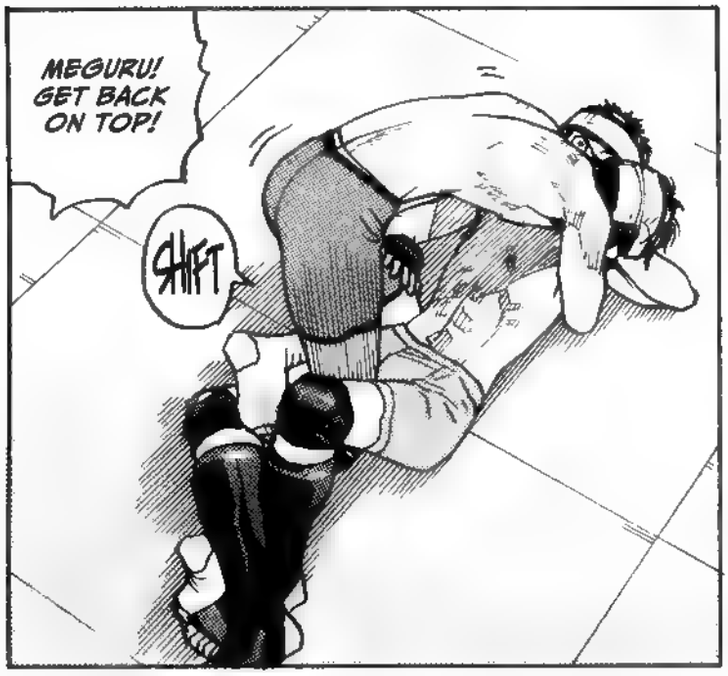

CAREFUL ...
I'VE GOT HIM ON THE GROUND!

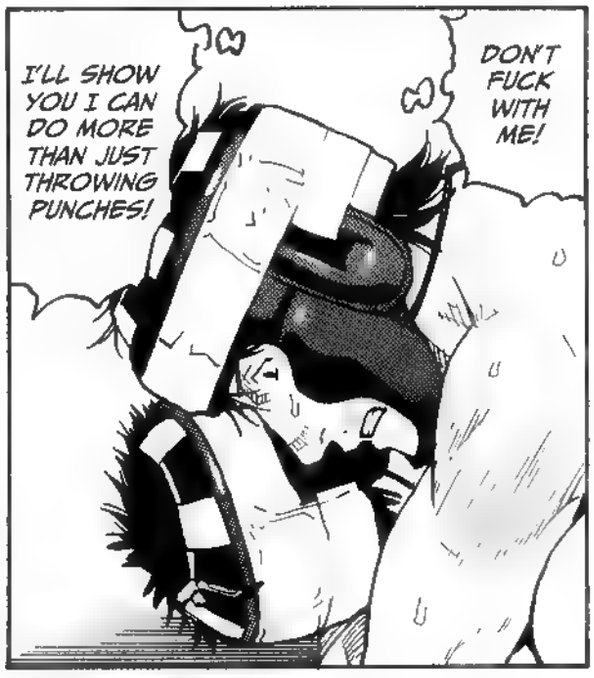
MEGURU! YOU'RE TOO FAR FORWARD!
!

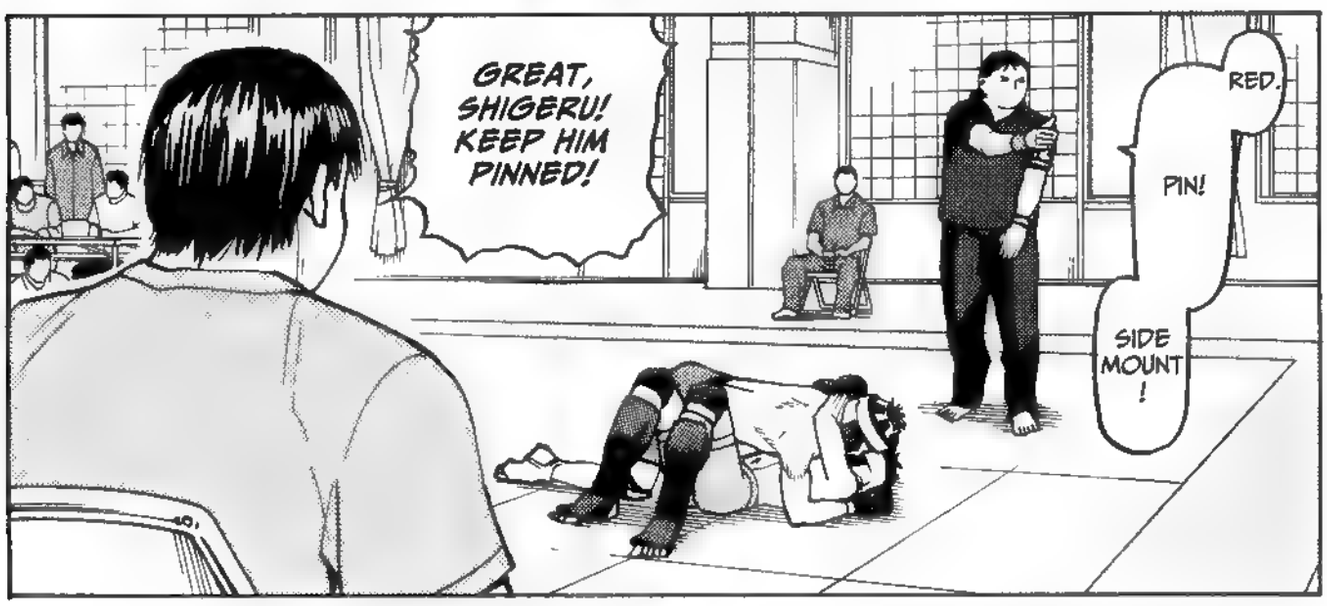
HUH?!


WHAT THE...?!


WHAT'RE YOU DOING LETTING HIM SWEEP YOU?!
OH, COME ON!


MEGURU! GET BACK ON TOP!
SHIFT


I'LL SHOW YOU I CAN DO MORE THAN JUST THROWING PUNCHES!
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!


GREAT, SHIGERU! KEEP HIM PINNED!
RED.
PIN!
SIDE MOUNT!

I'M GONNA LOSE IF I DON'T MOVE!
SHIT!
NOW GO FOR THE SUB!
YOU GOT A POINT!
Ten seconds!

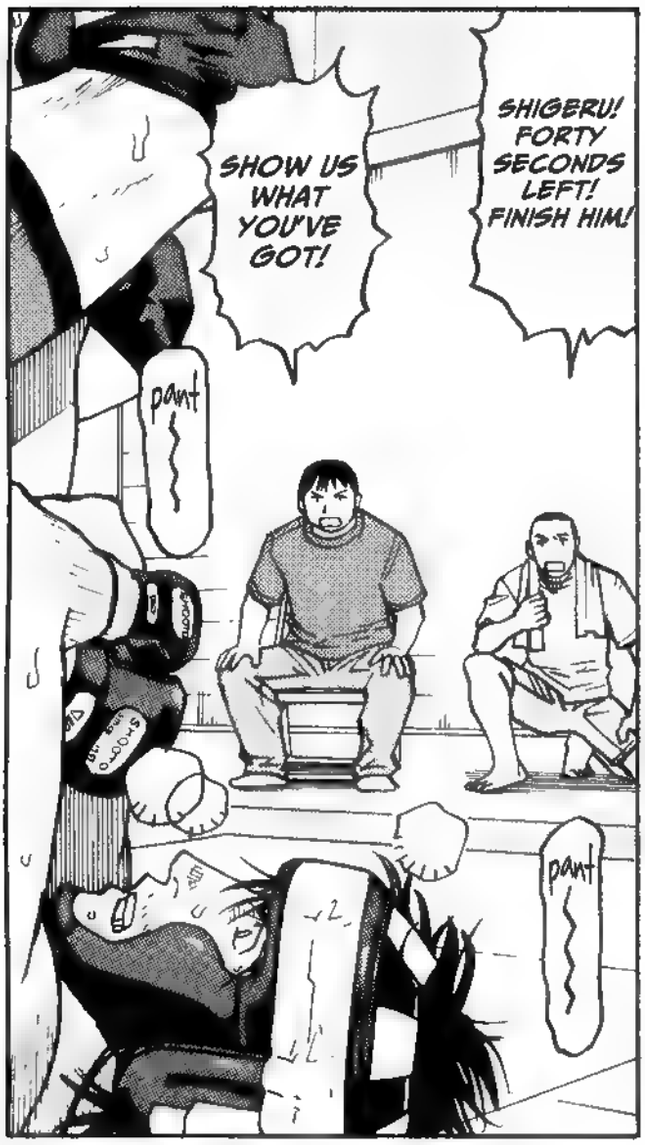
HUH?
RED.
MOUNT!
WHAAT?!
THAT IDIOT!
HOW COULD HE LET HIM TAKE THAT POSITION?
THE SCORE'S 6-2...
LOOKS LIKE HE LOST HIS FOCUS AFTER GETTING THAT TAKEDOWN.

THIS IS MIXED MARTIAL ARTS,
SO ANYTHING GOES!
HOOK
キュッ
ガ
WHOA!

HANG IN THERE, MEGURU! PUT YOUR WEIGHT INTO IT AND CRUSH HIM!
DON'T LET YOUR FEET SLIP!
WHOA-HHH!
CATCH.
I'M NOT DONE FOR YET!
!

pant
SUBMIT HIM!
SHIGERU! FORTY SECONDS LEFT!
pant
DAMN IT! HANG IN THERE!
MY ARMS ARE SCREAM-ING...
IF I CAN GET OUT OF THIS, I KNOW I'LL GET MY CHANCE!
URG!

Chapter 33 | First Round Tournament Match (Part 4)


SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
SHIGERU! FORTY SECONDS LEFT! FINISH HIM!
pant
pant

ONCE YOU PULL YOUR ELBOW OUT, GET HIS SIDE!
MEGURU! PUT YOUR WEIGHT INTO IT!

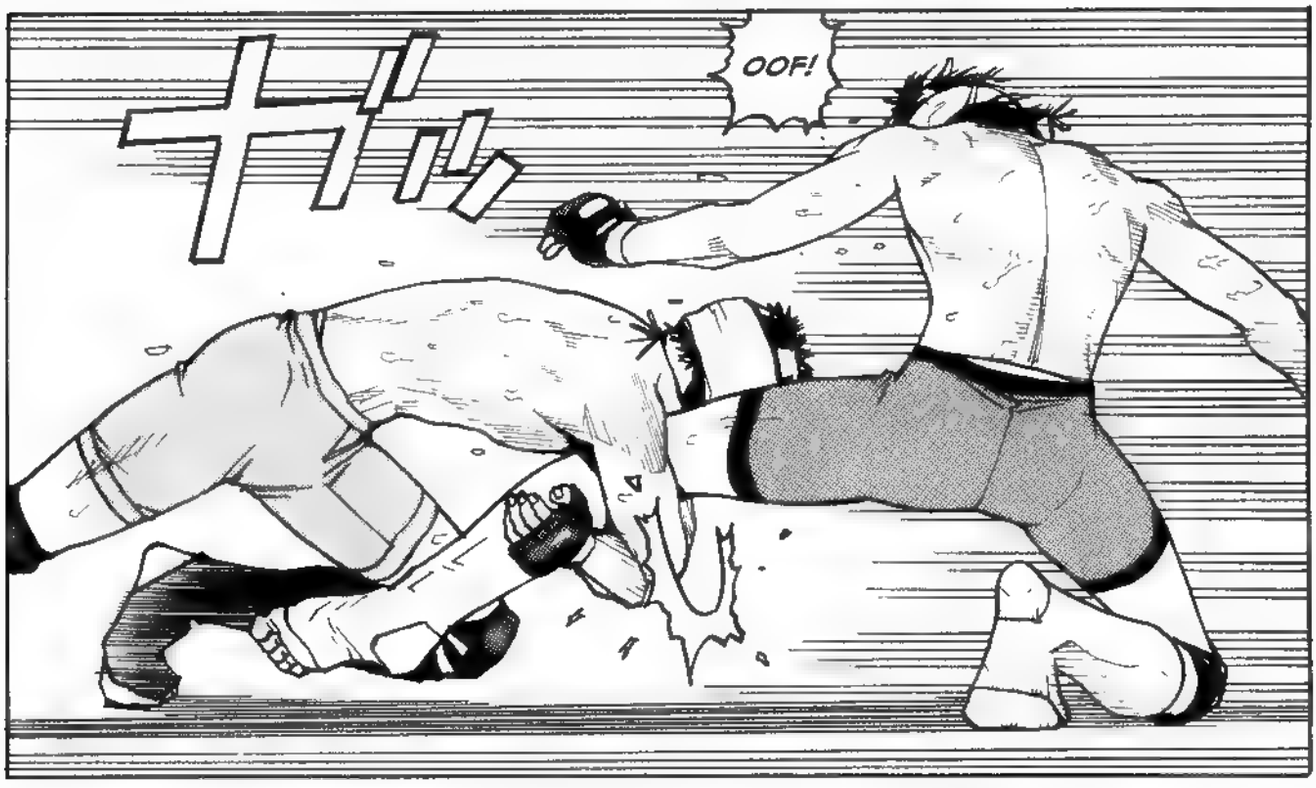
I CAN'T... HOLD ON...
MY ARMS ARE ABOUT TO GIVE OUT...

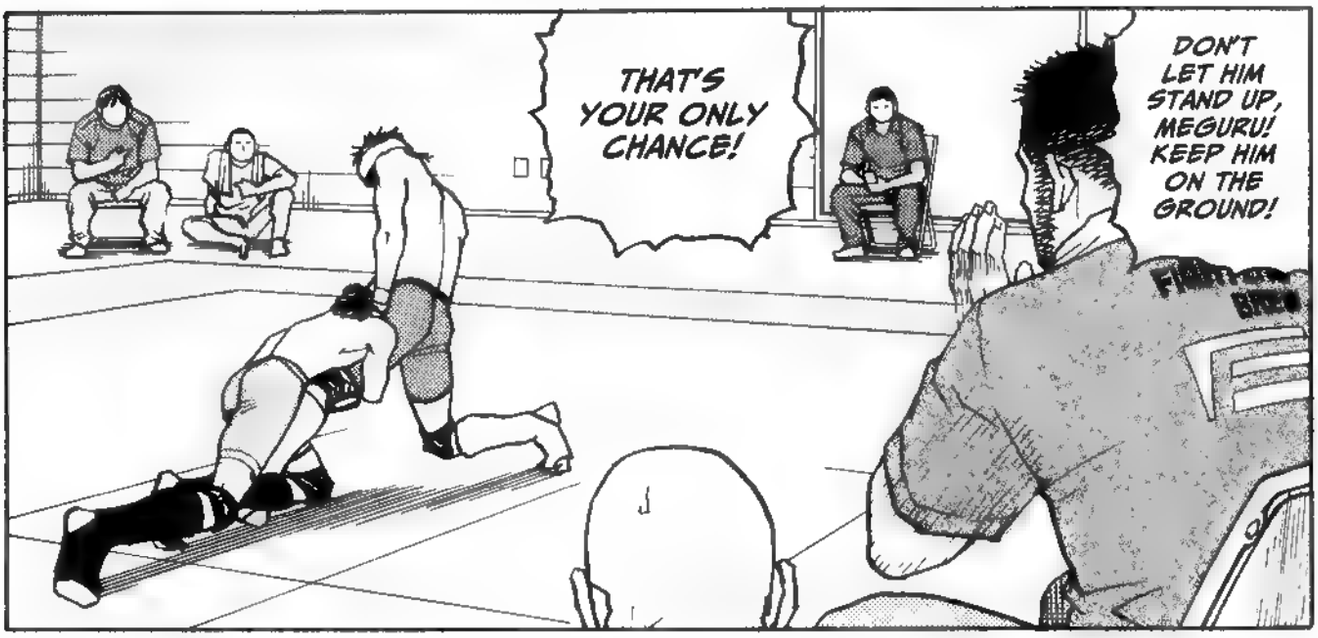
HRG!
ゲゲゲ
ゲッ

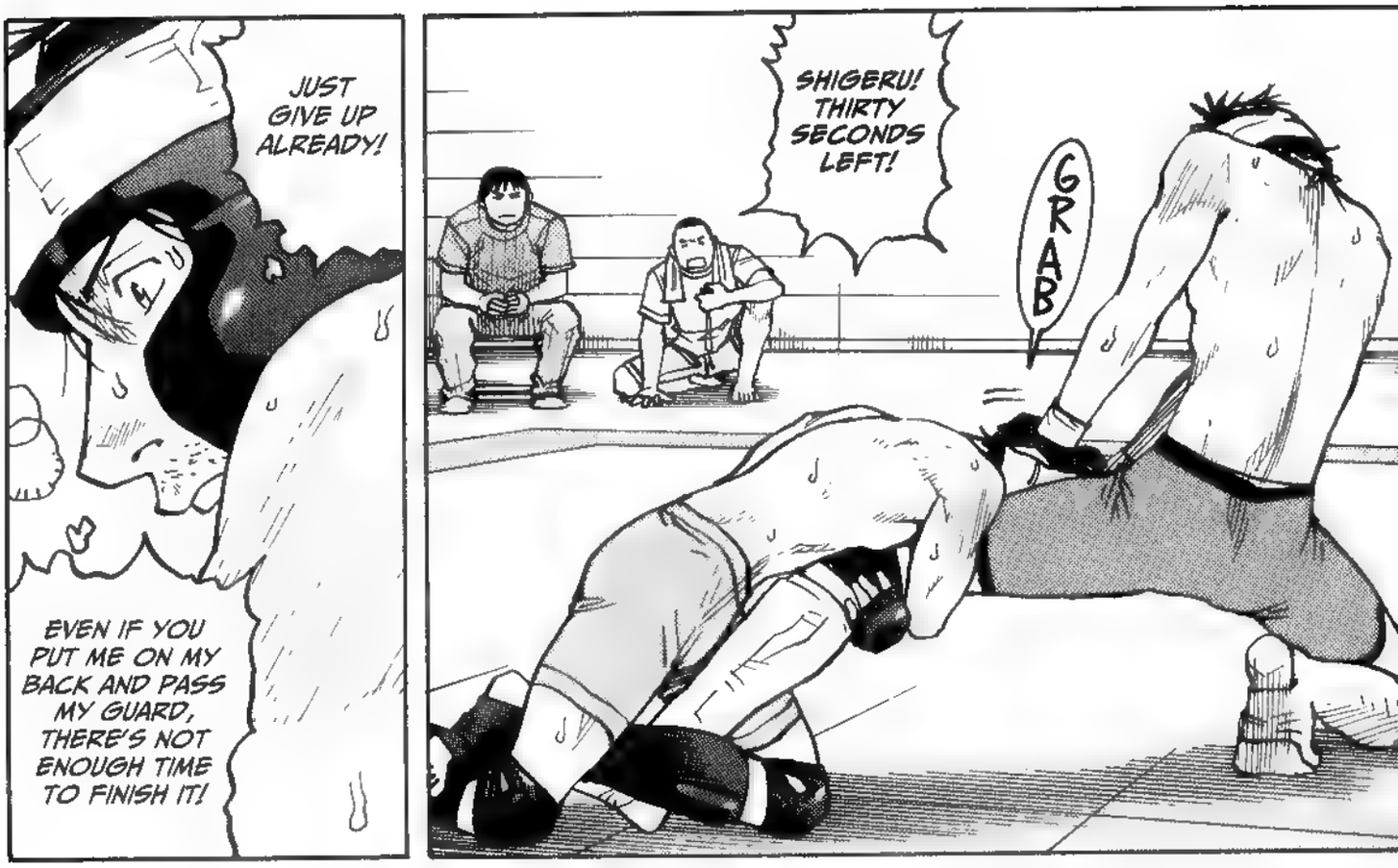
DAMN IT!
IT'S NOT WORK-ING!
IF I CAN KNOCK HIS LEFT LEG OUT...
MY ABS ARE THROBBING.
huff
huff
huff
SO...
I'VE GOT A BIG ENOUGH LEAD...
!

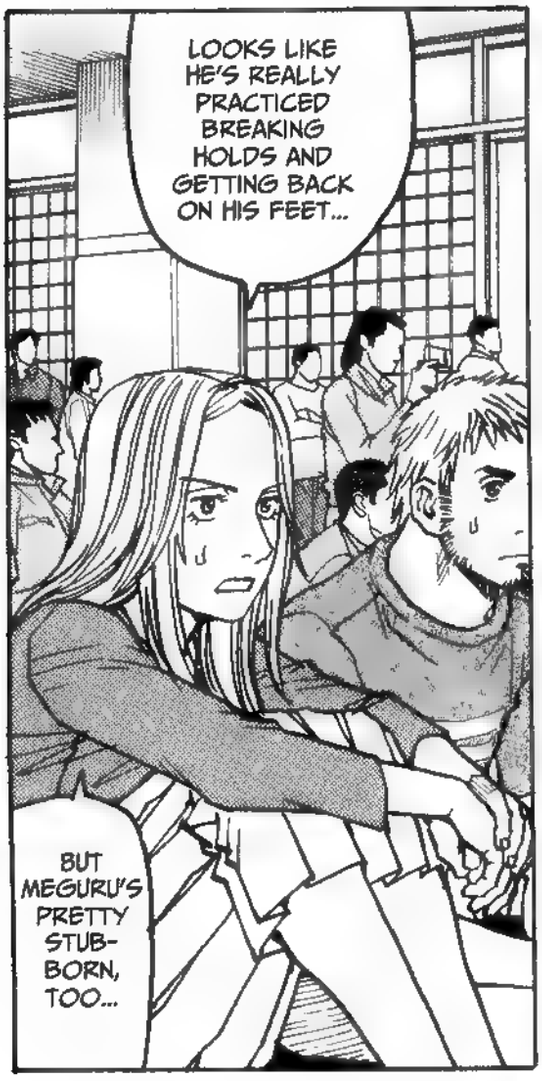
HE'S GOING FOR A TRIANGLE !
STRAIGHTEN UP!

I CAN'T LET HIM GET BACK ON HIS FEET!
SHIT!


ナガル
OOF!

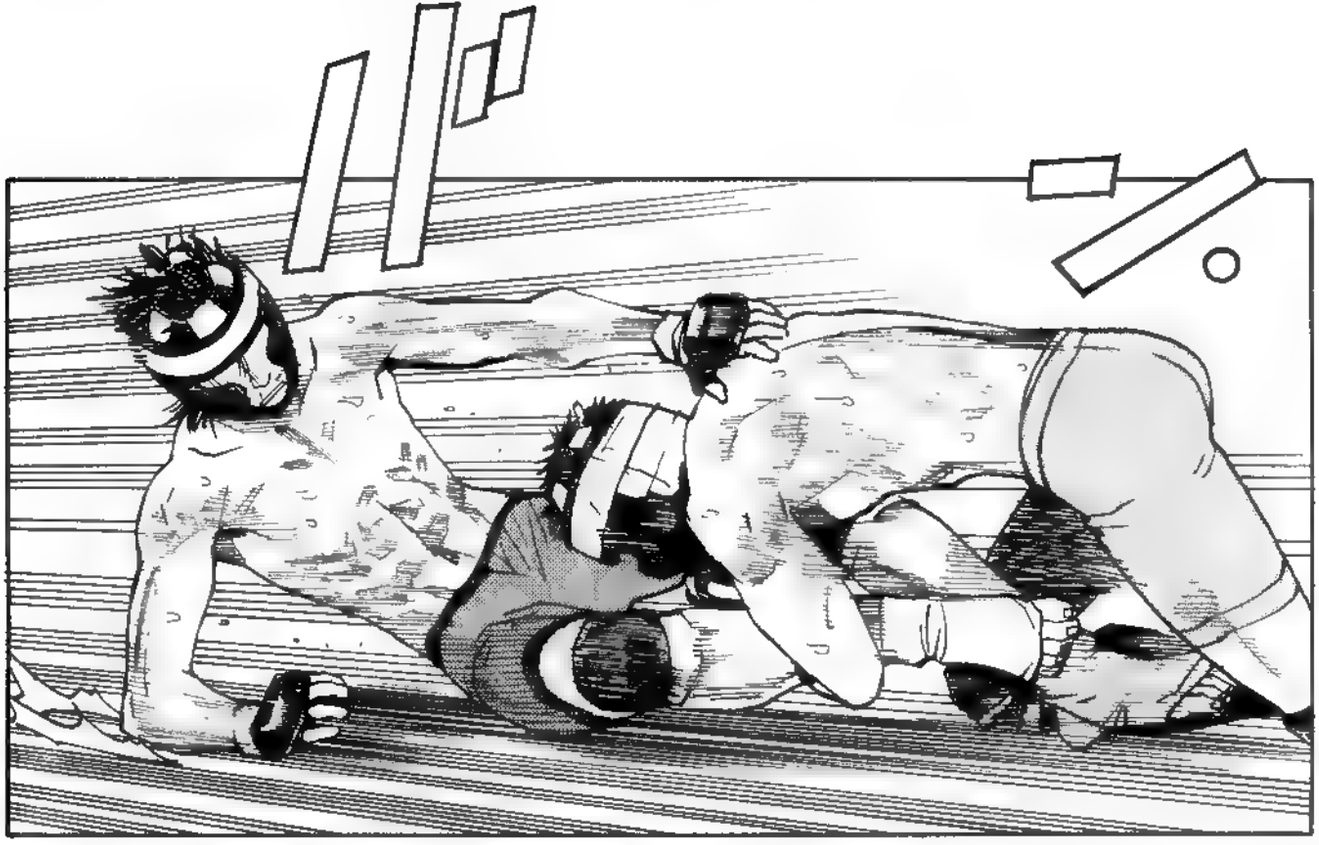

THAT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!
DON'T LET HIM STAND UP, MEGURU! KEEP HIM ON THE GROUND!

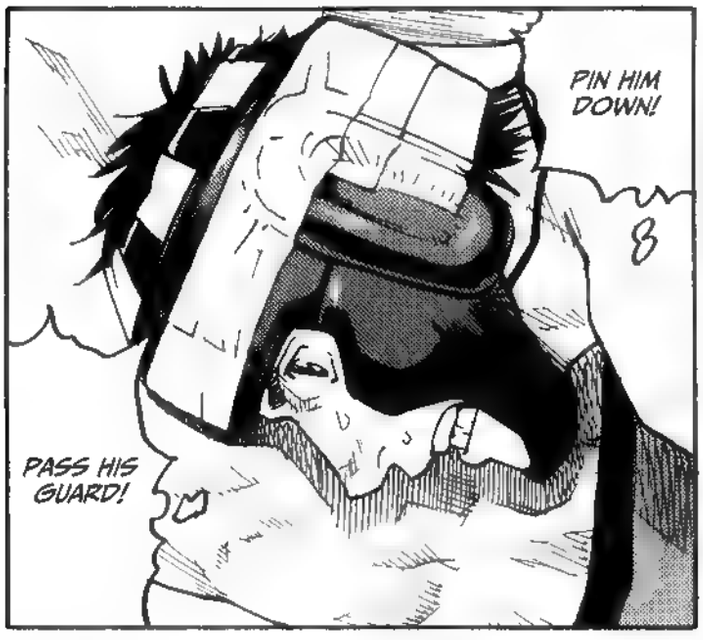

JUST GIVE UP ALREADY!
EVEN IF YOU PUT ME ON MY BACK AND PASS MY GUARD, THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH IT!
SHIGERU! THIRTY SECONDS LEFT!
GRAB

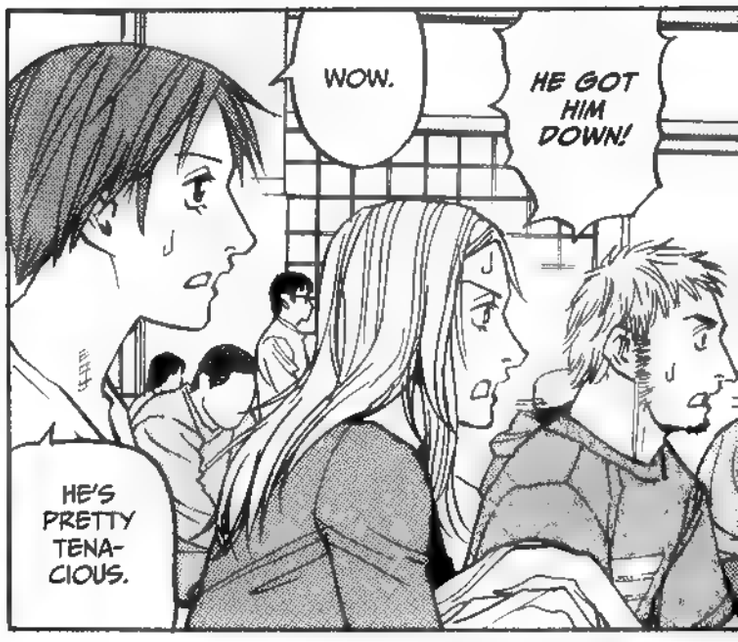

LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY PRACTICED BREAKING HOLDS AND GETTING BACK ON HIS FEET...
BUT MEGURU'S PRETTY STUB-BORN, TOO...

WHEN MEGURU STRAIGHT-ENED UP,
HE KICKED HIM IN THE HIP TO PUSH UP.
HE SWITCHED FROM AN ARMBAR TO A TRIANGLE...

I'VE GOT TO GIVE IT EVERY-THING I HAVE!
I HAVE TO GET HIM DOWN, NO MATTER WHAT!
UGH!
ガッ
ガ
ガ
WHOA!




PIN HIM DOWN!
PASS HIS GUARD!


WOW.
HE GOT HIM DOWN!
HE'S PRETTY TENA-CIOUS.

OH!

KEEP MOVING! PASS GUARD!
MEGURU! DON'T STOP!
I'M BACK IN HIS GUARD!
DAMN IT!
HUFF
HUFF
STAY ON THE OFFENSE!

KEEP HIM THERE!
HUFF
HUFF
THIS IS IT!

"KEEP FIGHTING TILL THE END, EVEN IF IT'S A DECISION."
THAT'S WHAT FURUYA TOLD ME!
I CAN'T STOP NOW!

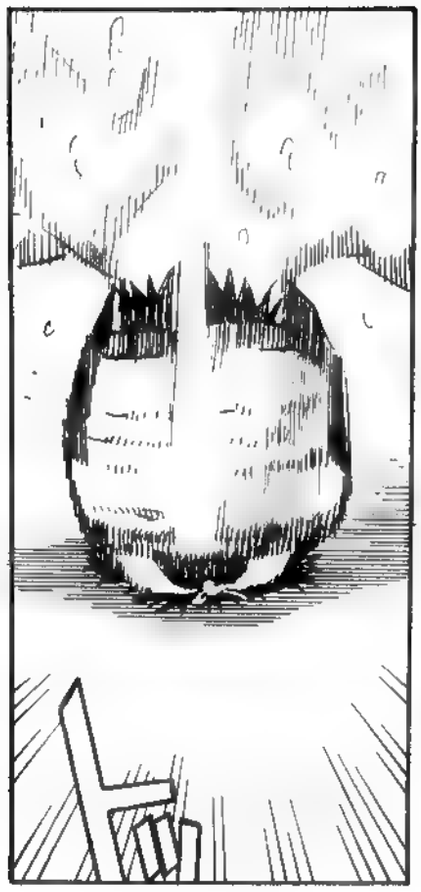
GAH, DON'T HESITATE!
JUST PASS HIS GUARD!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
MAYBE I SHOULD GO FOR HIS KNEE...

SHIGERU! TWENTY SECONDS!
HUFF
OK!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS KEEP THIS POSI-TION!
HUFF

I GOT MY KNEE IN!
I CAN DO THIS!

!

ガッ!!
HE GOT HIS LEG IN!
AH!
I STOPPED HIM...!



!!
THE SWEAT ...
NO WAY!
HE PASSED TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE?!
I CAN STAND UP!
SO SLIP-PERY!

ばっ

...HIS BACK!
HE GOT...

MEGURU, GOOO!
SUBMIT HIM!
SHIGERU! TEN SECONDS!
HANG IN THERE!
I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH LEFT TO SQUEEZE!
IT'S NO USE... MY ARMS ARE GIVING OUT.
I'VE STILL GOT A POINT LEAD, THOUGH! IF I JUST GUARD MY NECK...
FUCK! DID I SCREW UP?!
THIS MATCH IS MINE!
FIVE SECONDS!

SHOOTO
UD
SHOOTO
UD
MATCH OVER!
DEFENCE

MATCH OVER!
!
pant
pant

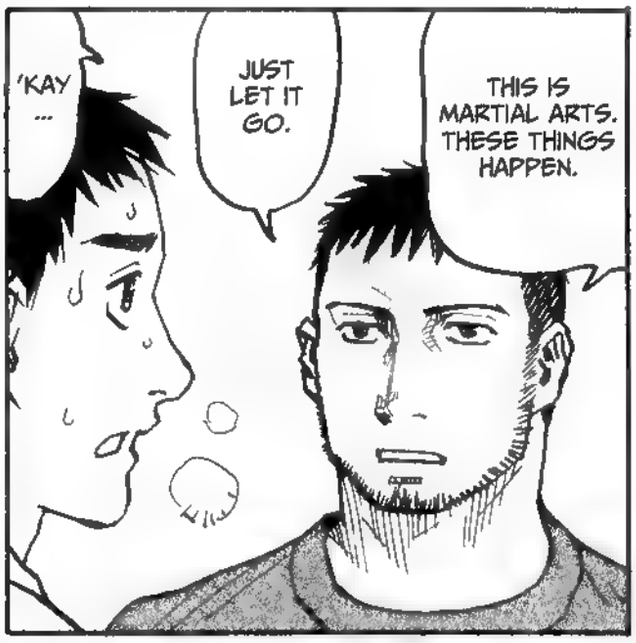
The referee has called the stop to this contest at...
...3 minutes and 59 seconds...
I stand corrected.
HE STRAIGHTENED HIS ARM JUST BEFORE THE BELL!
We now go to the judges' scorecard for the decision --
!
...declaring the winner by Technical Submission...
...due to an armbar...
...Meguru Takayanagi!

!
UM...
BUT THE OTHER GUY DIDN'T TAP.
IN AMATEUR *SHOOTO*, THE MATCH IS OVER AS SOON AS YOUR ARM IS STRAIGHTENED.
THAT WAS PRETTY QUICK, THOUGH, SO HE PROBABLY HURT HIS ELBOW.
...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THANKS ...

...WHY COULDN'T I WIN?
THAT ARMBAR YOU USED EARLIER...
DID YOU HURT YOUR ELBOW ...?
ICE! GET US SOME ICE!
...
IF YOU'D JUST TRIED A LITTLE HARDER, YOU COULD HAVE FINISHED IT.
HE WAS ALREADY WORN OUT BY THEN.
YOUR STYLE OF RACKING UP POINTS EARLY ON AND THEN RUNNING AWAY USUALLY WORKS, BUT...
...THIS IS MARTIAL ARTS, AFTER ALL, AND SOMETIMES YOU'VE JUST GOTTA GO FOR IT.
IF YOU LET THAT MOMENT SLIP AWAY...
...IT'S GONNA COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU.
...
GO HAVE THE DOCTOR CHECK YOU OUT.

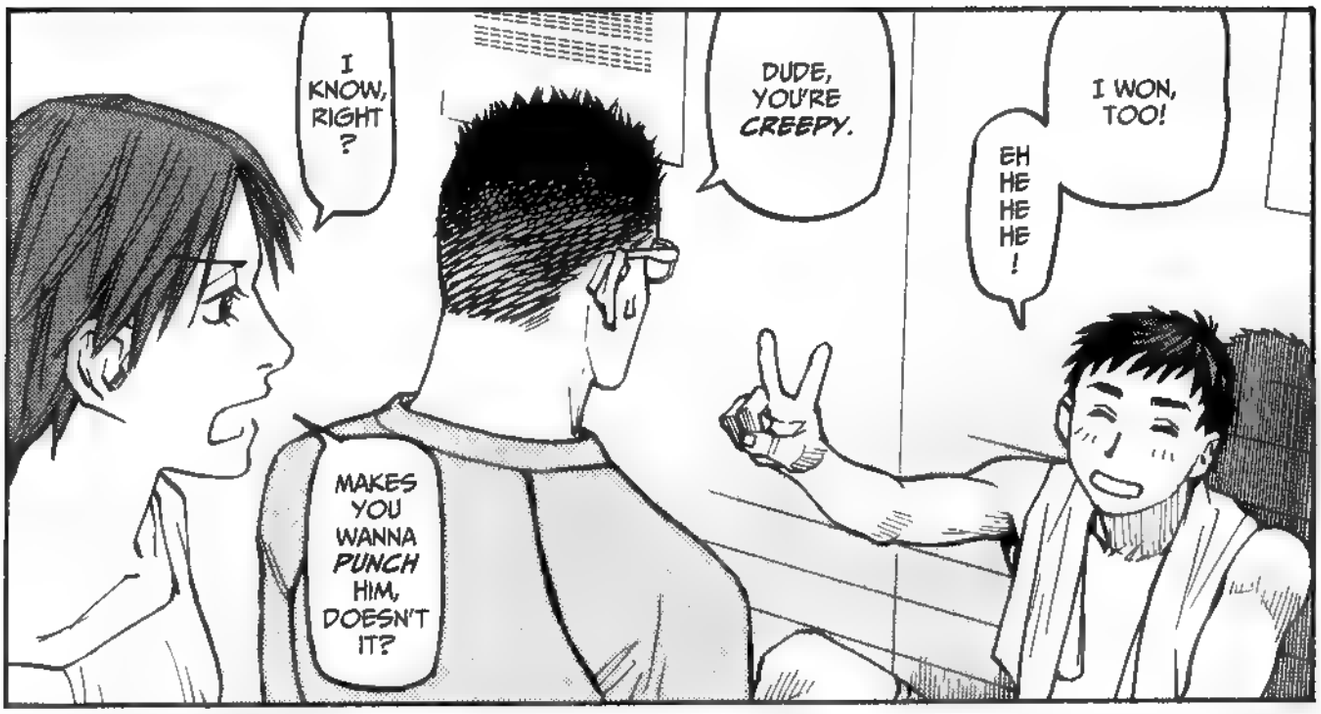
FIRST YUDAI'S ELBOW, NOW THIS GUY'S?
YOU'RE A BULLY, THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE.
OW, OW.
THAT'S ENOUGH, MAKI!

HE DROPPED YOU ONCE, THOUGH.
YEAH ...
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP YOUR DEFENSE UP.


THIS IS MARTIAL ARTS. THESE THINGS HAPPEN.
JUST LET IT GO.
'KAY ...

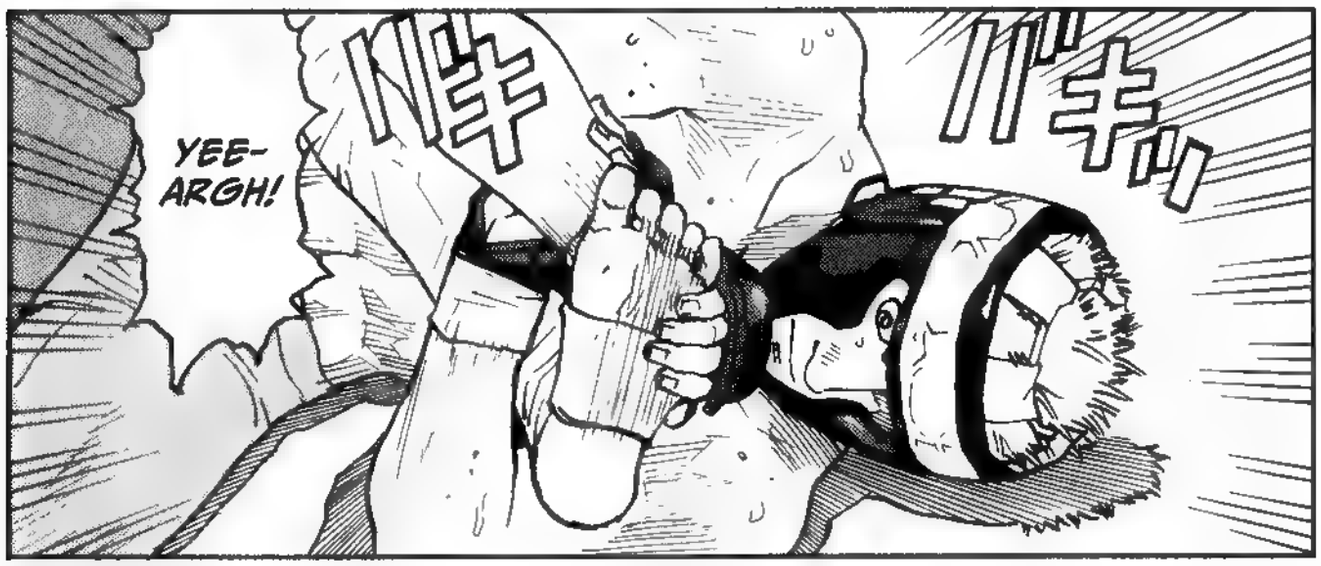
TE-HEH

!


I KNOW, RIGHT?
MAKES YOU WANNA *PUNCH* HIM, DOESN'T IT?
DUDE, YOU'RE *CREEPY*.
EH HE HE HE!
I WON, TOO!

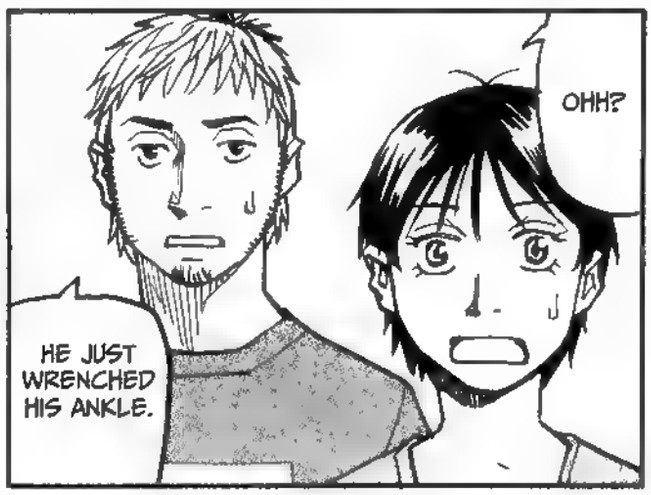
CATCH!
OH, WHOEVER WINS THIS MATCH.

YUDAI'S UP AGAINST A WRESTLER NAMED TACHIBANA.
AND MEGURU'S OPPONENT IS...
WHO ARE YUDAI AND MEGURU UP AGAINST NEXT?


YEE-ARGH!
バキッ
バキッ

カーン カーン カーン
STOP!

The referee has called the stop to this contest at 2 minutes and 46 seconds...
...declaring the winner by Submis-sion...


OHH?
HE JUST WRENCHED HIS ANKLE.

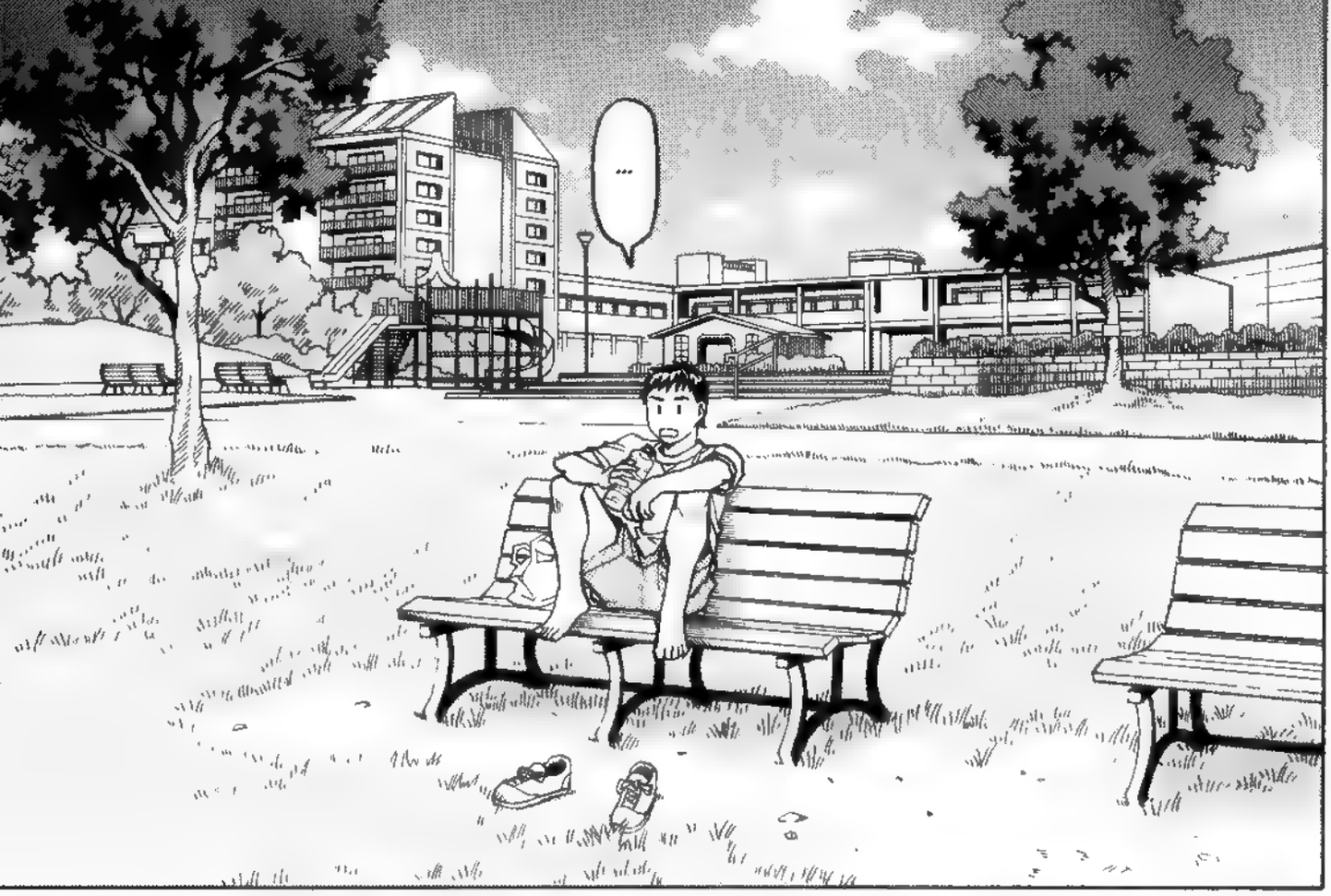
BUT YOU'VE ONLY GOT TO MAINTAIN A LEGLOCK FOR AN INSTANT...
LOTS OF INJURIES TODAY.

HUH?!
...due to an ankle lock...
... Kiyoshi Ogasa-wara.
WHY IS HE BLOND ?
ACK!

HE'S COMING OVER HERE!
EEP!
ざっ
ざっ
WE BOTH MADE IT THROUGH THE FIRST ROUND!
AND WE'RE GONNA BE UP AGAINST EACH OTHER...
...IN ROUND TWO!
...WHY'RE YOU BLOND?
I WANTED TO CHANGE MY IMAGE!
ぶん
ぶん
EEEEEEEEKKKKK
ぴっ
MEGU-RUUUU!
ガッ

SEE YA!
...BUT I'M NOT GONNA LOSE TO THE SAME GUY TWICE!
STRIKES MAY BE ALLOWED THIS TIME...
SPARKLE
...
FUCK. HE REALLY MESSED ME UP.
COMING THROUGH.
...
YOU'RE OVER-DOING THE MONO-TONE, MAKI.
EEK, MARTIAL ARTS ARE SOOO SCARY.
I DUNNO ...
HOW CAN HE LOOK SO CALM AFTER BREAKING THAT GUY'S ANKLE?!
DID HE REALLY TWIST IT THAT HARD?

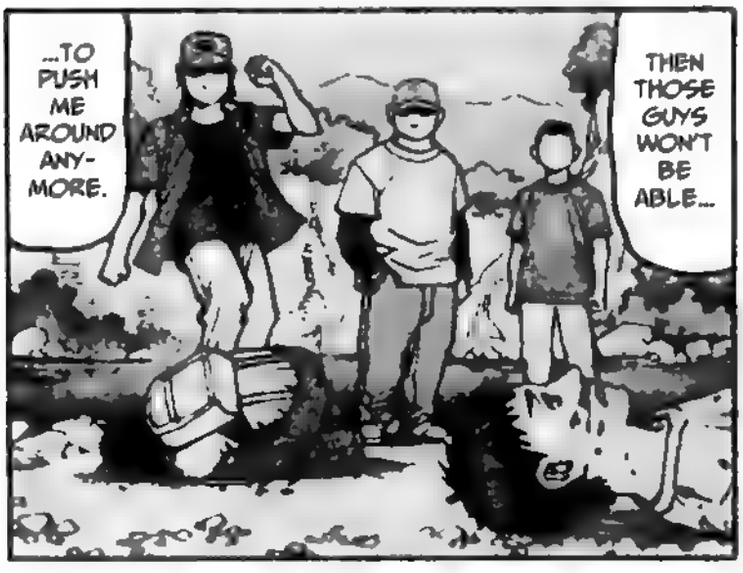
KEEP AN EYE ON THE TIME.
I'M GONNA GO GET SOME AIR...
ROUND TWO'S STARTING SOON.
AHH...
SURE IS A NICE DAY...
...
LUCHADOR
FIGHTER FIGHTERS
SHIOTO



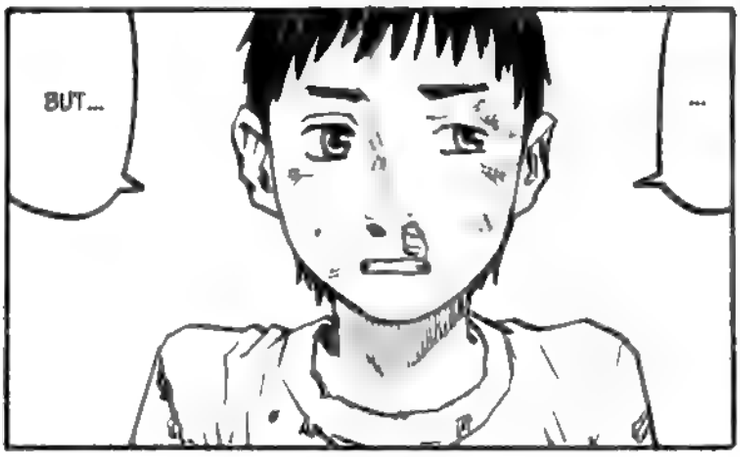
*A BASIC FORM OF BASEBALL PLAYED BY CHILDREN WITHOUT A SECOND BASE.

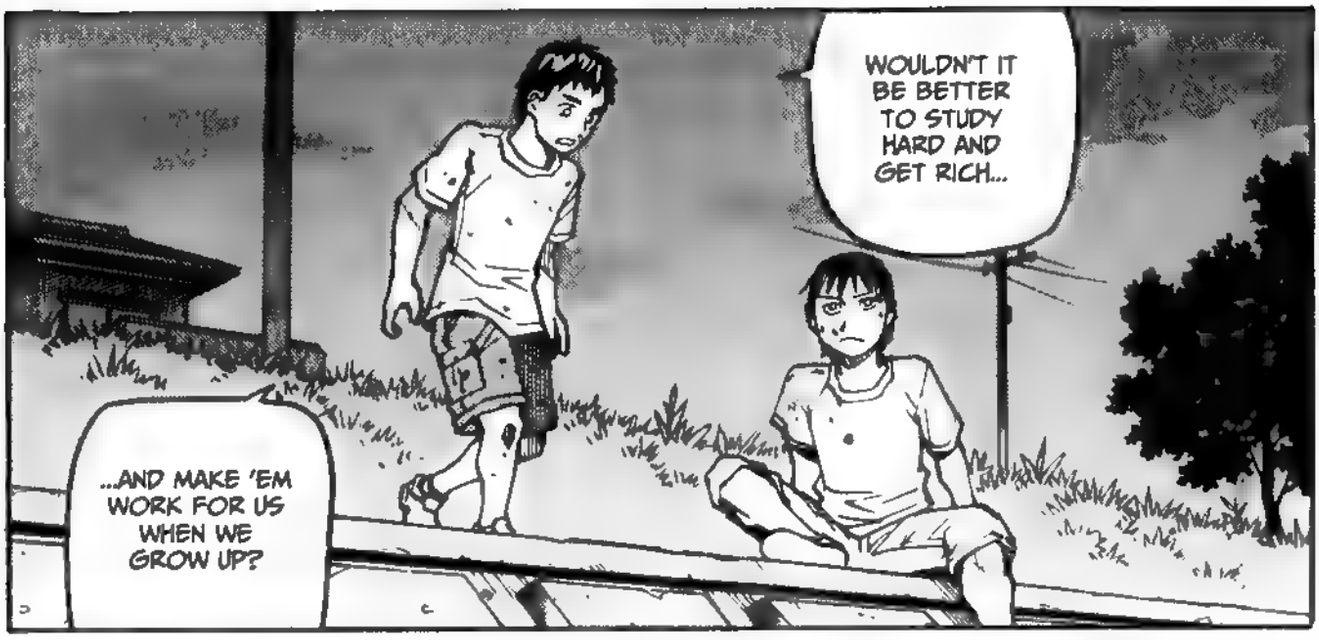
Why did I...
...start *shooto* anyway?
POP
It's not an extracurricular activity, so even if I win, it won't help me get a job or get into college or anything.
And it's all divided by weight classes, so I'd probably lose to a heavyweight. (And what does "the strongest" mean anyway?)
Even if I go pro, there's no guarantee I can make a living off it.
So why?

I WANNA BE STRONGER.


...TO PUSH ME AROUND ANY-MORE.
THEN THOSE GUYS WON'T BE ABLE...

...

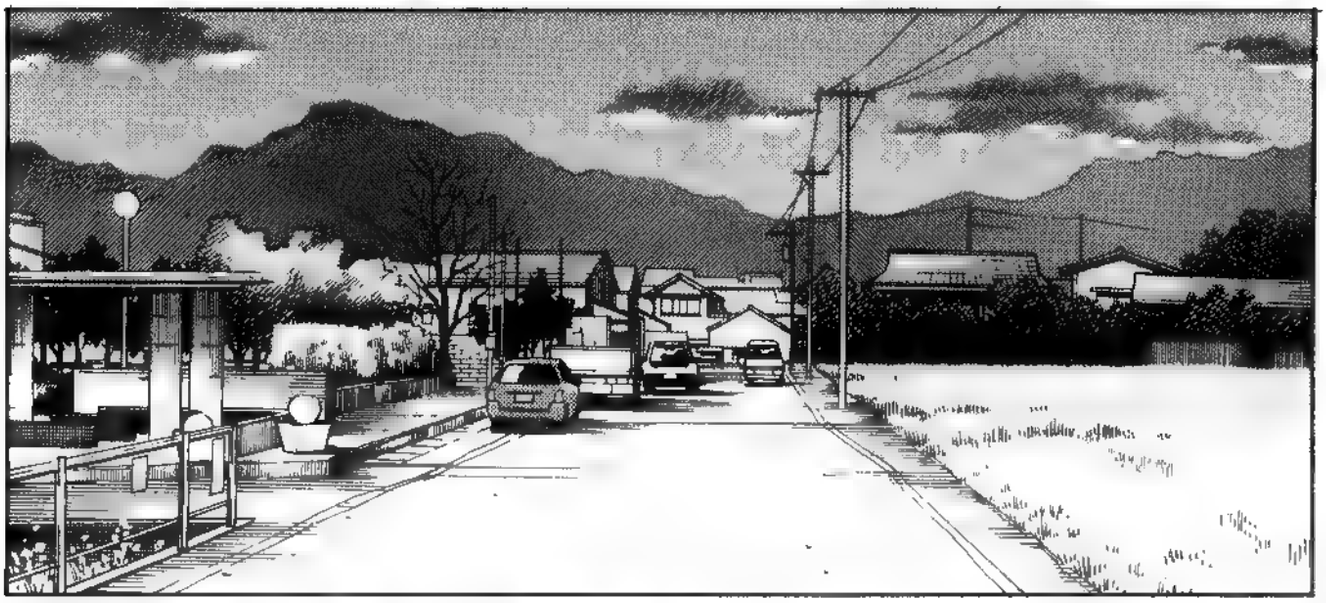

BUT...
...


WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO STUDY HARD AND GET RICH...
...AND MAKE 'EM WORK FOR US WHEN WE GROW UP?

EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE ANY PARENTS.

NO THANKS.
SO I'M SUPPOSED TO JUST HIDE UNTIL I GROW UP?

I JUST WANT...
...TO BE ABLE TO STAND TALL.



IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
SHUT UP.
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?!

WERE YOU TWO FIGHTING AGAIN?!
OH, WHAT IN THE...?!

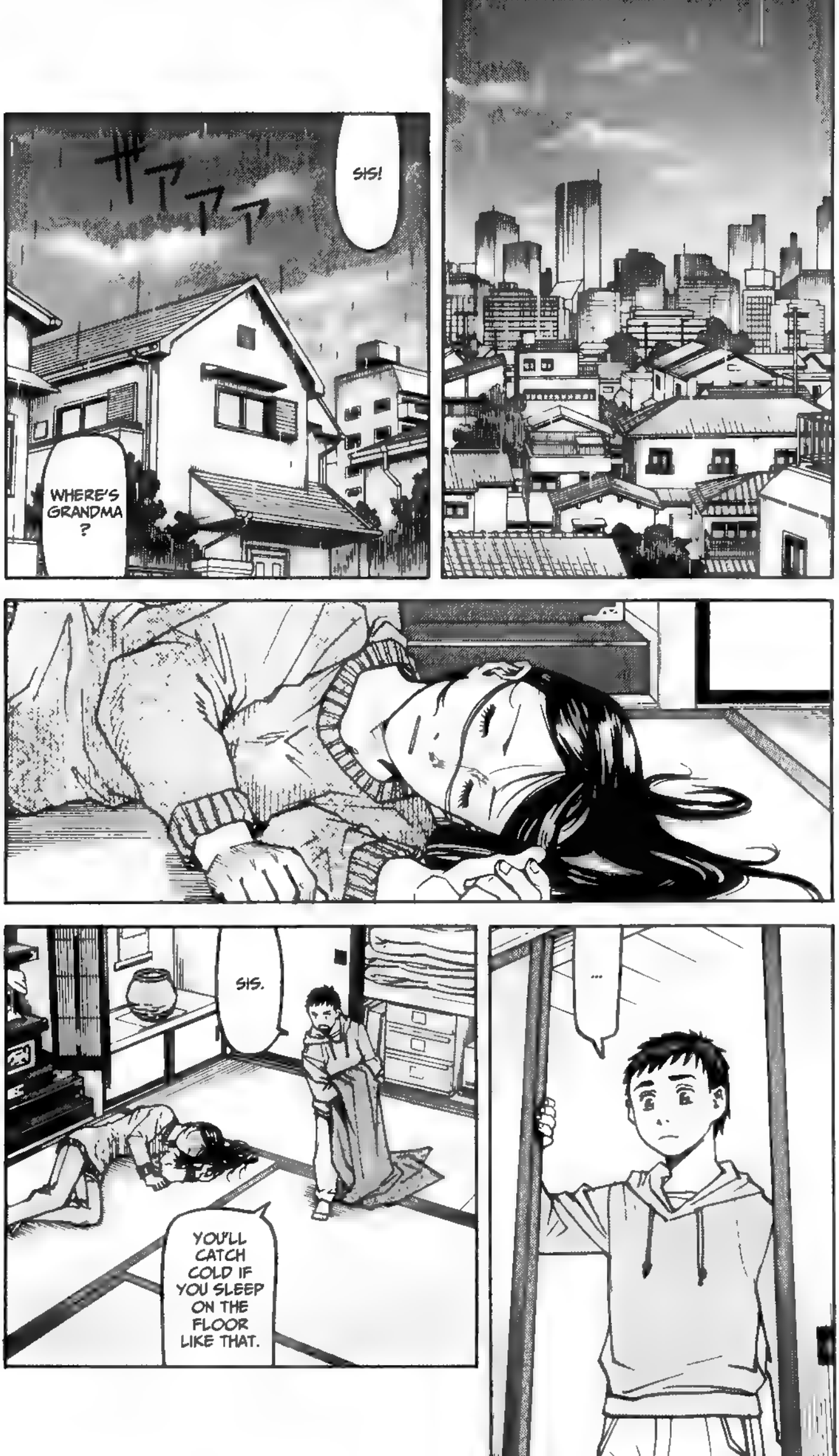
BOTH OF YOU GET INSIDE!
ANYWAY, I'D BETTER CLEAN YOU UP.

...
mmbi
mmbi

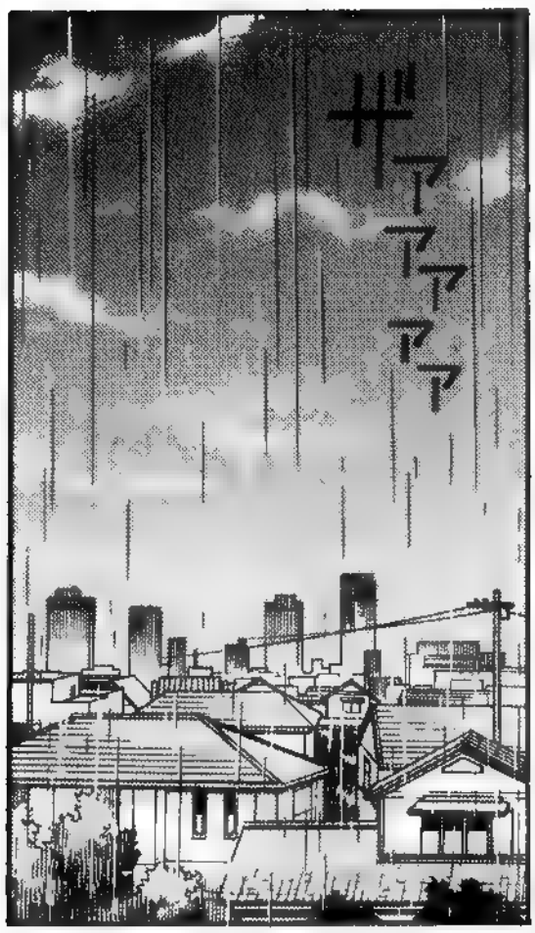
ARE YOU OK? ANY CUTS IN YOUR MOUTH?
UH, NO.
I'M FINE.

...
YOU DO KARATE! WHAT'S A LITTLE HYDROGEN PEROXIDE COMPARED TO THAT?!
IT STINGS, SIS!
OWWWW!

...
NO...
I'LL CALL YOUR GRANDPA AND LET HIM KNOW.
TAKASHI, WHY DON'T YOU STAY FOR DINNER?
I'LL GO HOME.


SIS!
WHERE'S GRANDMA ?
SIS.
YOU'LL CATCH COLD IF YOU SLEEP ON THE FLOOR LIKE THAT.
...

MOM
...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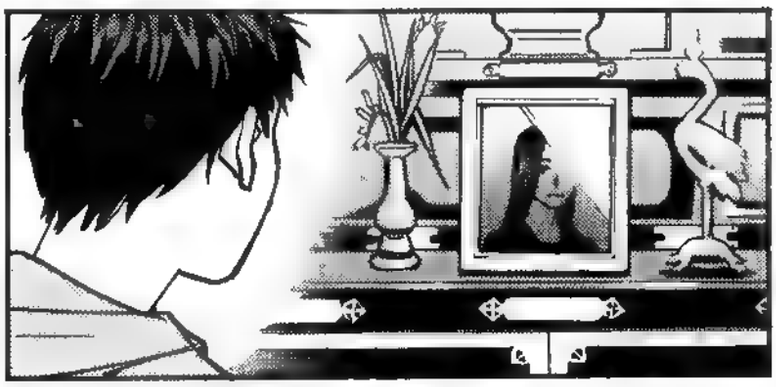

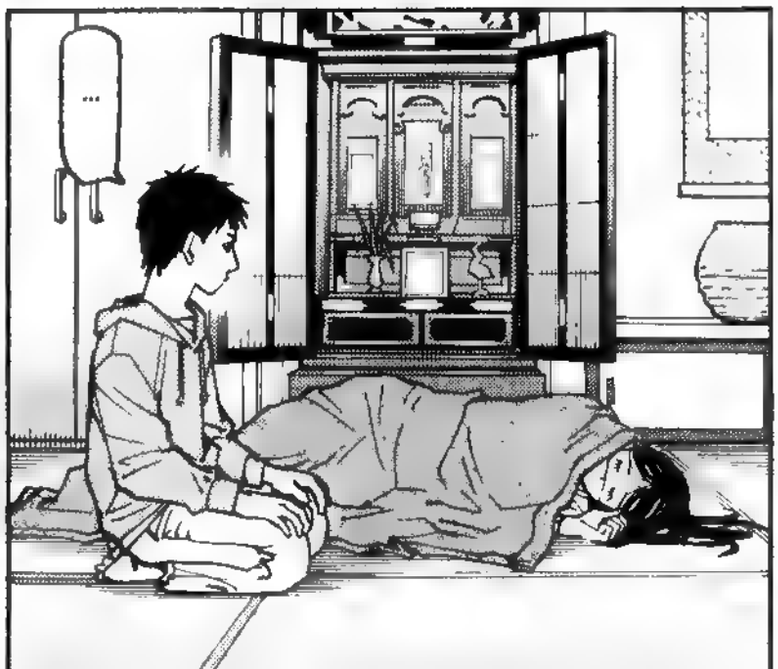
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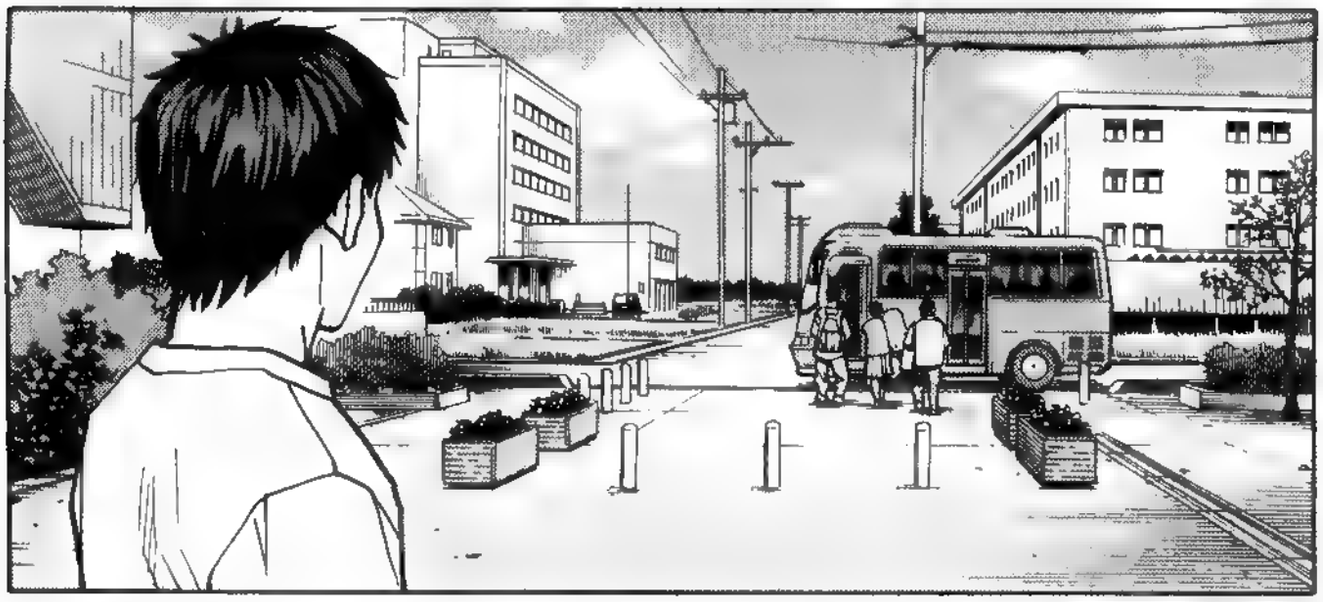
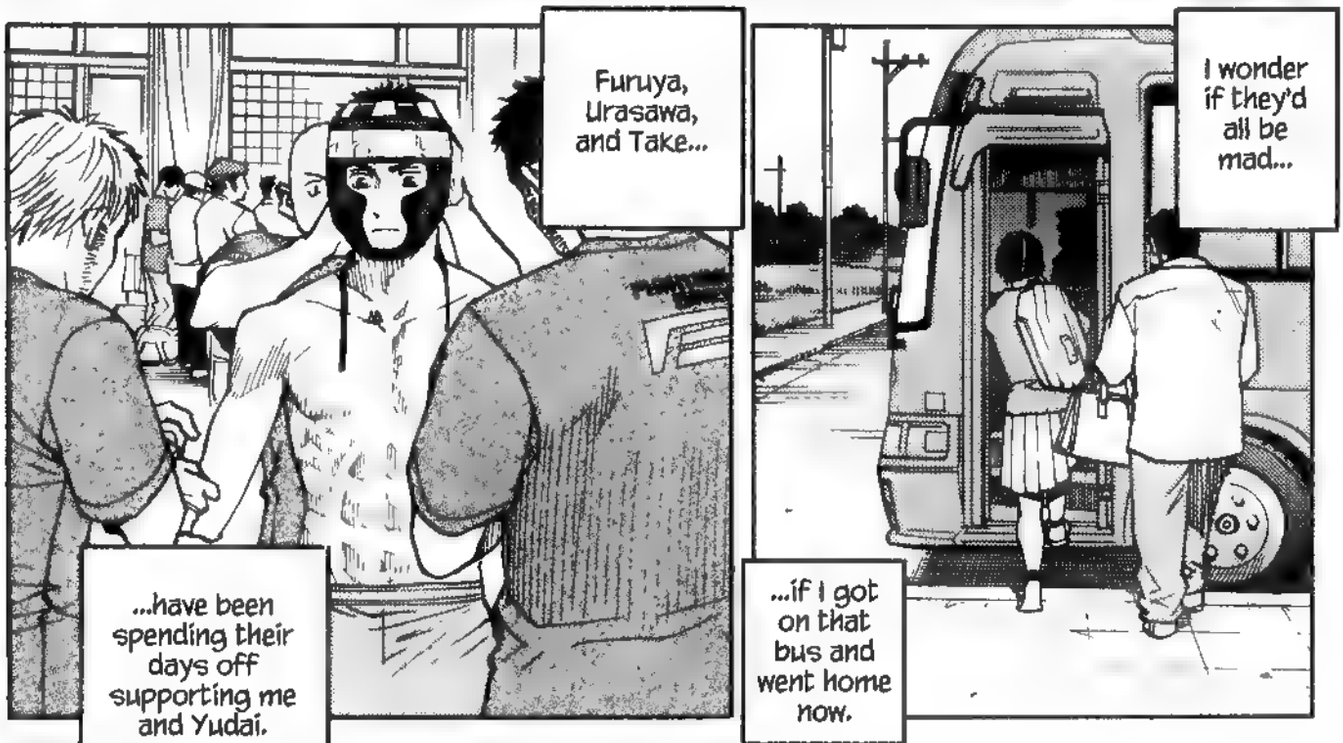



Furuya, Urasawa, and Take...
...have been spending their days off supporting me and Yudai.
I wonder if they'd all be mad...
...if I got on that bus and went home now.

And all those times...
...Maki had me on the mat with her clinches...
All the times...
...Watanabe pinned me...
Can't breathe with his face in Watanabe's stomach.
!
MEGURU, COME ON!
HEY!
...

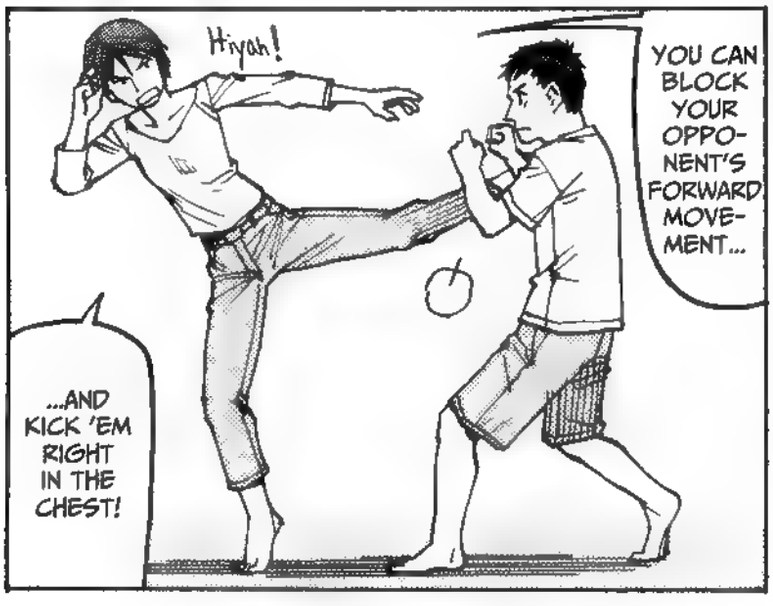
...
FURUYA SAID TO GET BACK INSIDE!
ROUND TWO'S ABOUT TO START!
I'M COMING.
OK.

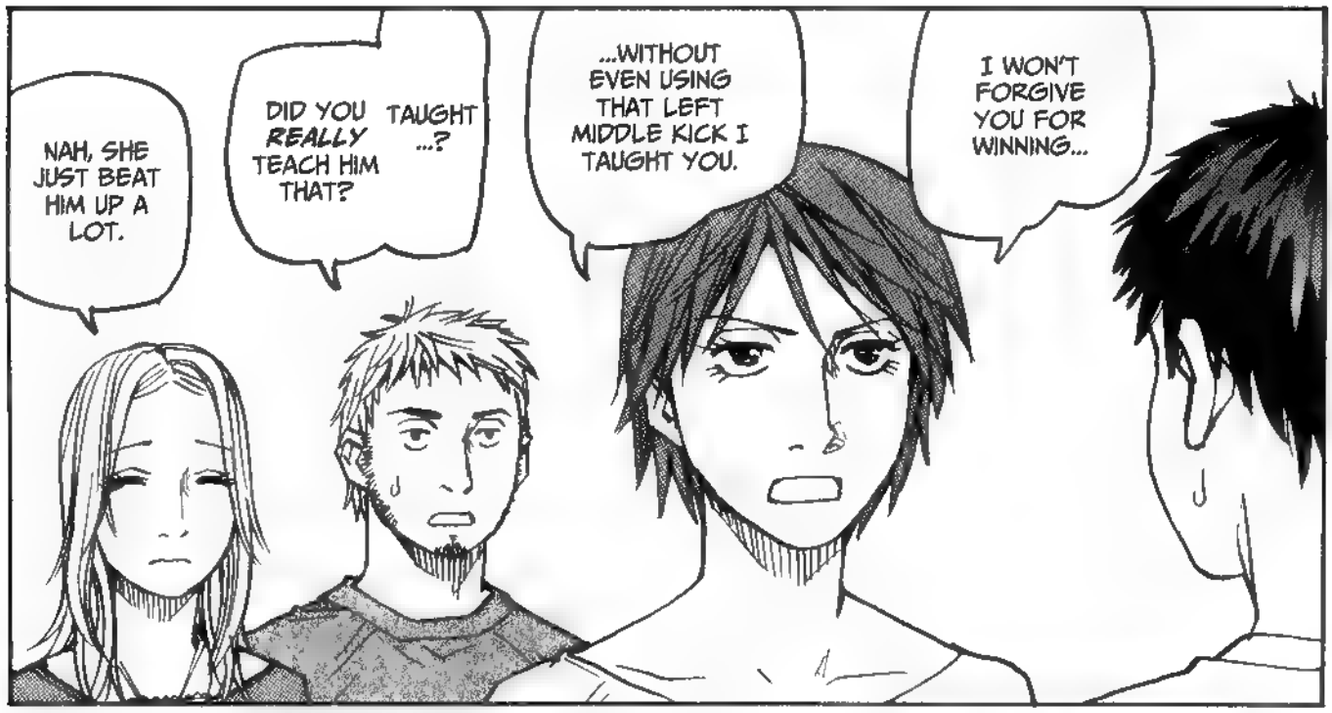
Chapter 35 | Second Round Tournament Match ~Yudai~ (Part 1)

YOU ALWAYS GOT A JAB IN WHEN YOU WERE FIGHTING ME...
...IS BECAUSE YOU WERE LOOKING *DOWN*.
THE REASON YOU COULDN'T LAND THAT STRAIGHT BODY BLOW...

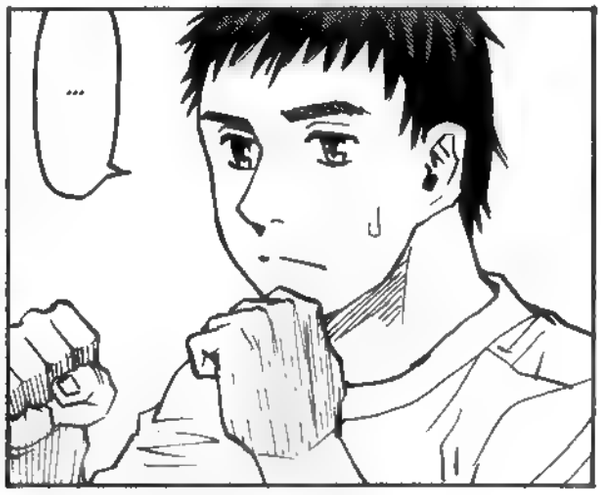
...YOU'VE MADE A SWITCH, HAVEN'T YOU?
IF YOU STEP FORWARD DIAGONALLY WITH YOUR RIGHT LEG...

I KNOW ...
AND YOU DIDN'T USE THE LEFT MIDDLE KICK AT ALL.
A LEFT MIDDLE'S THE BEST OFFENSE AGAINST SOMEONE WHO CROUCHES A LOT LIKE THAT GUY DID!

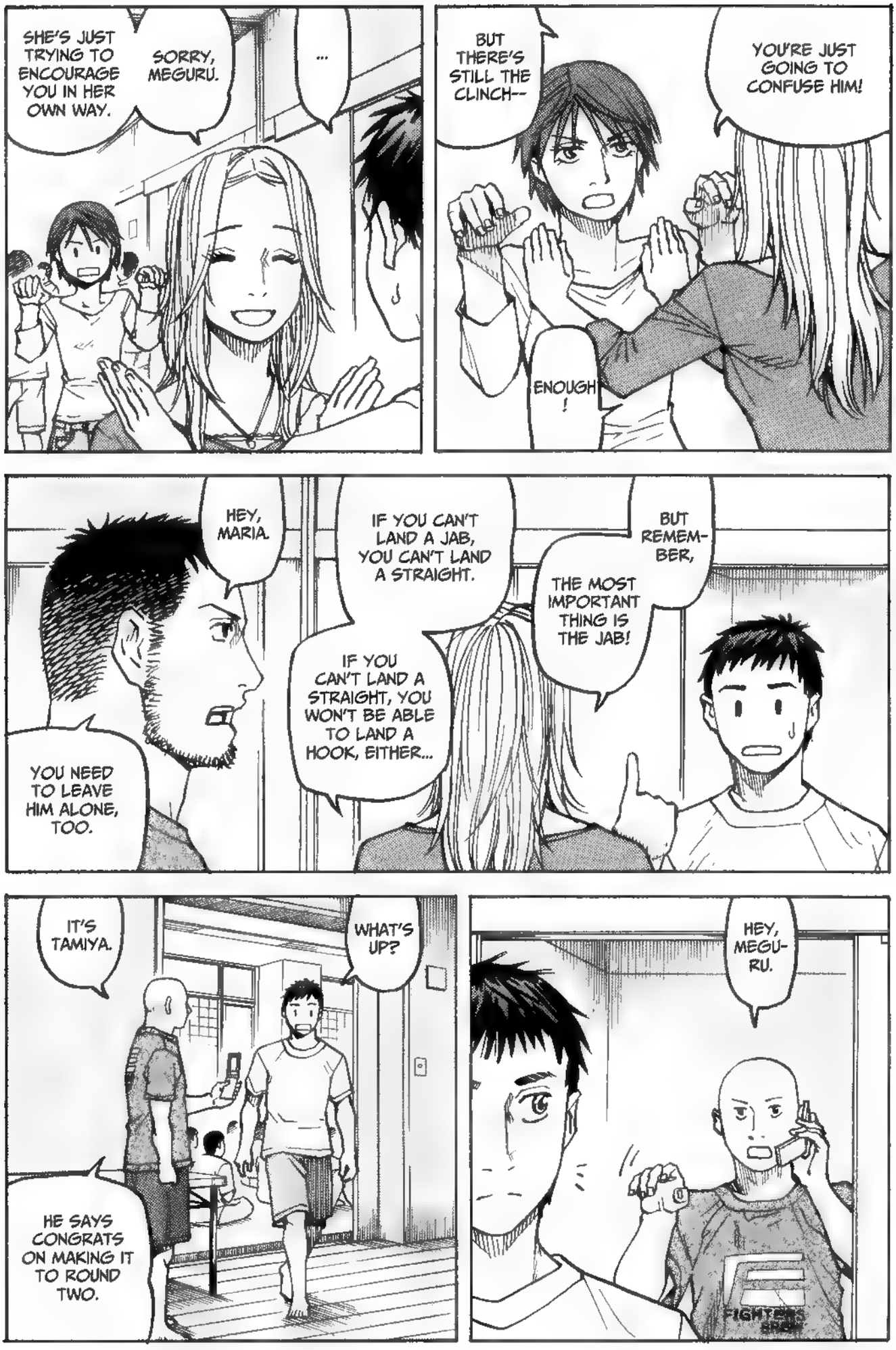

Hiyah!
YOU CAN BLOCK YOUR OPPONENT'S FORWARD MOVEMENT...
...AND KICK 'EM RIGHT IN THE CHEST!


I WON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR WINNING...
...WITHOUT EVEN USING THAT LEFT MIDDLE KICK I TAUGHT YOU.
DID YOU TAUGHT ...? REALLY TEACH HIM THAT?
NAH, SHE JUST BEAT HIM UP A LOT.

IF YOUR OPPONENT FALLS BACK AFTER A ONE-TWO COMBO, YOU CAN HIT HIM WITH A MIDDLE KICK.
THOUGH YOU CAN ALSO GAUGE THE DISTANCE WITH A JAB, THEN GO STRAIGHT FOR A LEFT MIDDLE.
ALSO ...
MAKI, MAKI!


...

CAN YOU REALLY USE THE "ONE-TWO-LEFT MIDDLE" COMBO IN AN ACTUAL MATCH?
HM?
HEY, MAKI.


SHE'S JUST TRYING TO ENCOURAGE YOU IN HER OWN WAY.
SORRY, MEGURU.
...
BUT THERE'S STILL THE CLINCH--
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO CONFUSE HIM!
ENOUGH!
HEY, MARIA.
IF YOU CAN'T LAND A JAB, YOU CAN'T LAND A STRAIGHT.
BUT REMEMBER,
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THE JAB!
IF YOU CAN'T LAND A STRAIGHT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LAND A HOOK, EITHER...
YOU NEED TO LEAVE HIM ALONE, TOO.
IT'S TAMIYA.
WHAT'S UP?
HE SAYS CONGRATS ON MAKING IT TO ROUND TWO.
HEY, MEGURU.

I'M AT NAGOYA STATION RIGHT NOW!
MY TRAIN LEAVES AT TWO, SO I'LL PROBABLY MISS THE FINALS.
ANYWAY, I HEARD YOU HAVE A REMATCH WITH OGASAWARA NEXT?
YEAH...
Want some advice?
What d'you mean?
?
WELL, BETTER TO AVOID TAKEDOWNS ALTOGETHER.
OH, WATA-NABE'S HERE.
Please!
DON'T ENJOY THE TAKEDOWNS TOO MUCH.

新
Shi
...?
UMMM...
Yarai
GIMME THAT!
YOU'RE WASTING MY MINUTES!
MEGURU MADE IT TO THE SECOND ROUND.
HERE.
SAY SOME-THING.
...

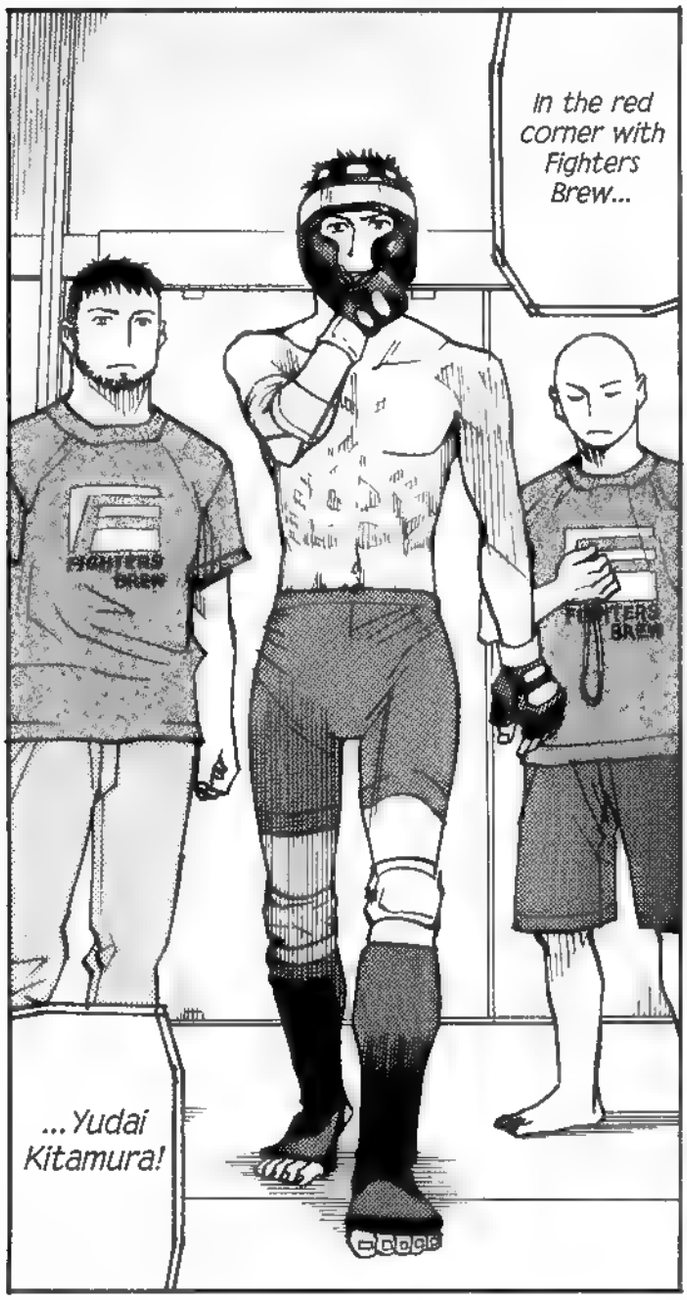
*TITLE USED TO ADDRESS ONE'S SENIOR COLLEAGUES IN A SCHOOL, COMPANY, OR SPORTS CLUB.

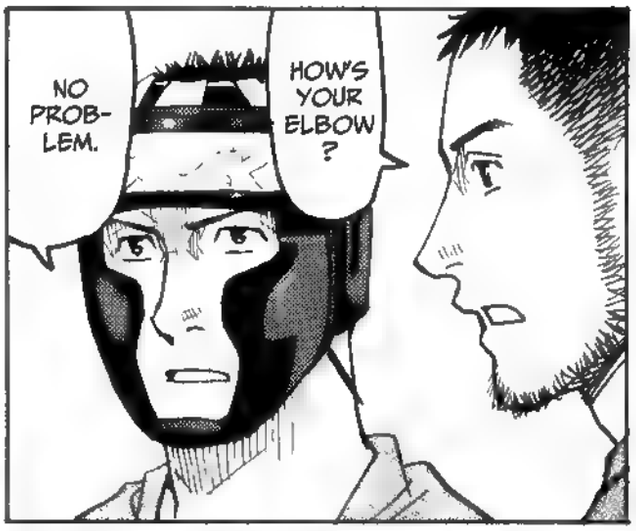
CHANGING STALL...?
HUH?
I DIDN'T KNOW WHICH CHANGING STALL YOU WERE IN...
OH, SORRY.
NOT SO LOUD!
I can't move
Get her out of here
What's going on?
Eek!
There's a girl in here
HMM ?
THIS IS THE MEN'S REST-ROOM!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I wiped his butt and every-thing!
I TOOK CARE OF MY BABY BROTHER, SO I DON'T CARE!
HMM?
YOU...
YOU DO REALIZE YOU'RE A GIRL, RIGHT?

I HEARD FROM SOMEONE I WENT TO JUNIOR HIGH WITH...
CHANGING THE SUBJECT ...
WHAT?
BECAUSE OF YOUR BROTHER ...
MY BROTHER HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
...THAT YOU HIT A 12TH GRADER ON THE JUDO TEAM?
...
TIME TO GET READY!
HEY, YUDAI!
BUT...

...
WOOSH
...IS THE GUY YOU LOST TO IN YOUR FRESHMAN TOURNAMENT, ISN'T HE?
YUDAI'S NEXT OPPO-NENT...
...YEAH.
IT WAS REALLY HARD...
AND EVEN IF I TRIED TO TAKE HIM DOWN, I COULDN'T KEEP HIM ON THE MAT...
...AND HE'D GET IN CLOSE WITH HIS HOOK.
HE WAS PHYSICALLY OVER-POWERING ...

IN THE END, HE WON THAT TOURNAMENT.
AND NOW YUDAI'S GONNA FIGHT HIM...?


In the red corner with Fighters Brew...
...Yudai Kitamura!


NO PROB-LEM.
HOW'S YOUR ELBOW?

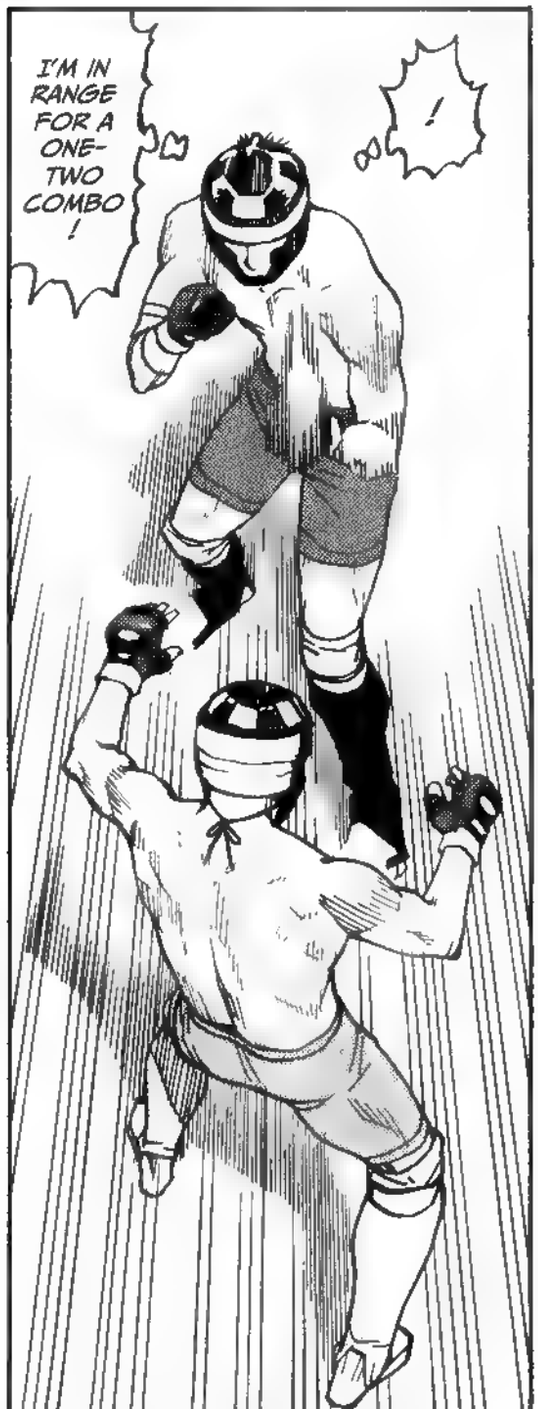
Light-weight division, round two.
Match 36.

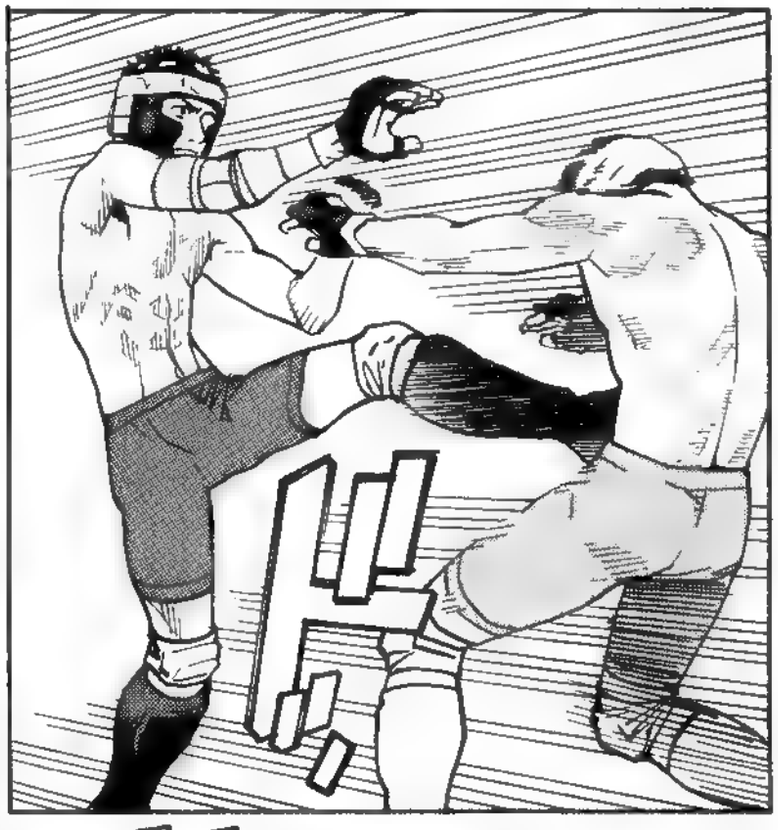
...Akira Tachibana!
And in the blue corner with Team Nelson...
FIGHT!

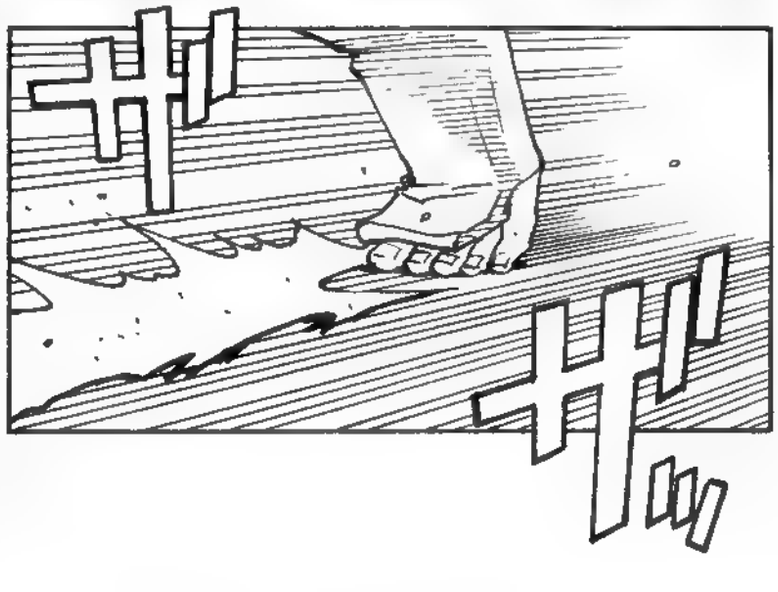
!
ガ!!!

HE'S GOT A WIDE SWING...
...BUT HE'S REALLY FAST!

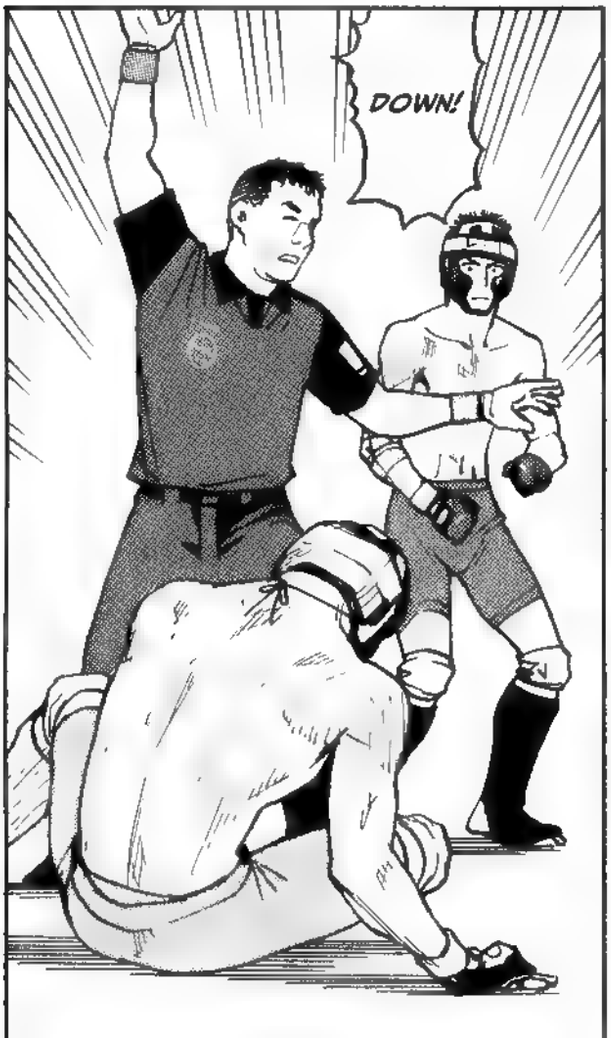
JUST CALM DOWN AND GAUGE THE DISTANCE ...
I CAN'T FALL BACK..!

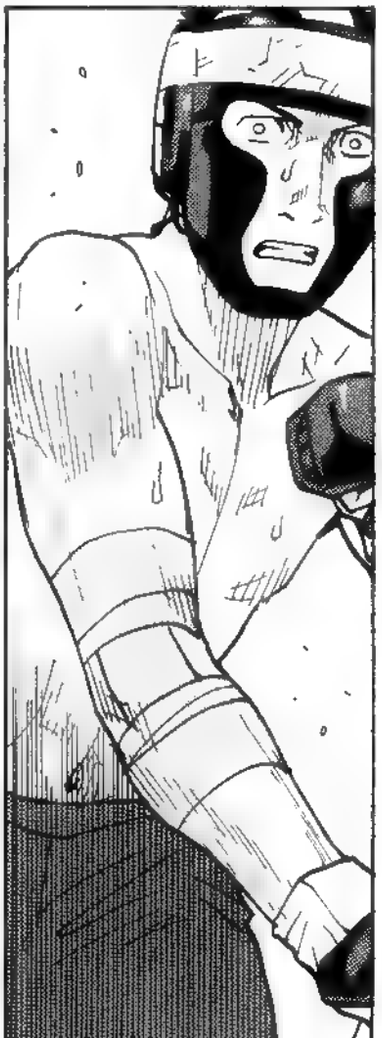

I'M IN RANGE FOR A ONE-TWO COMBO !
!

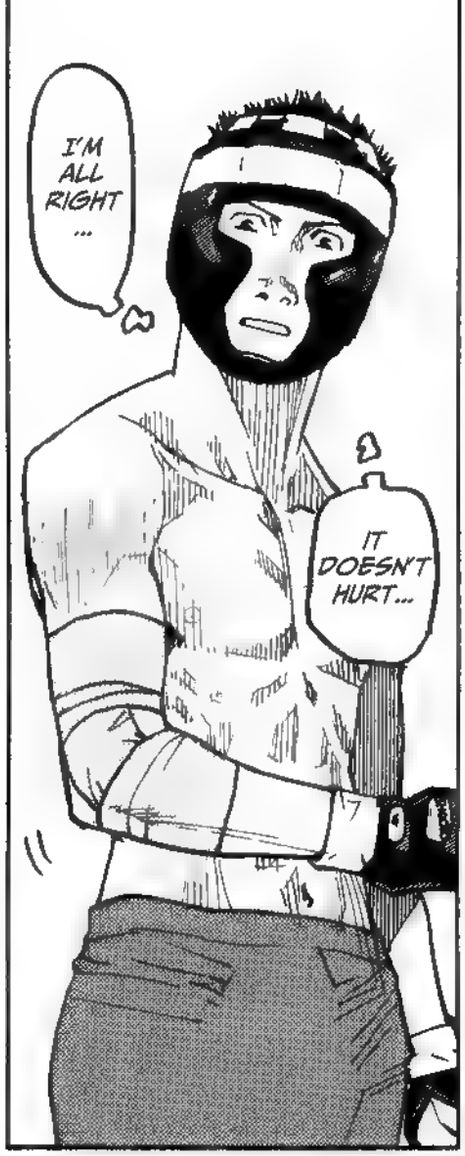


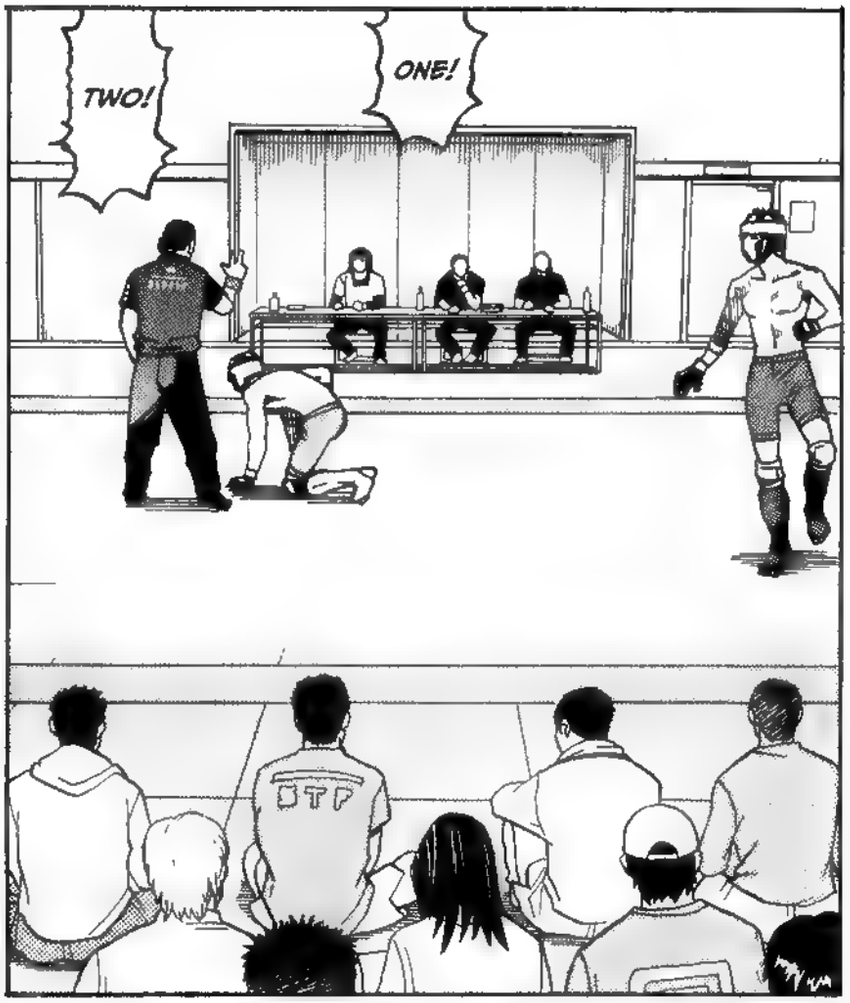


I CAN DO IT!
THIS IS MY CHANCE!
HE'S OFF-BALANCE ?!
!!


DOWN!

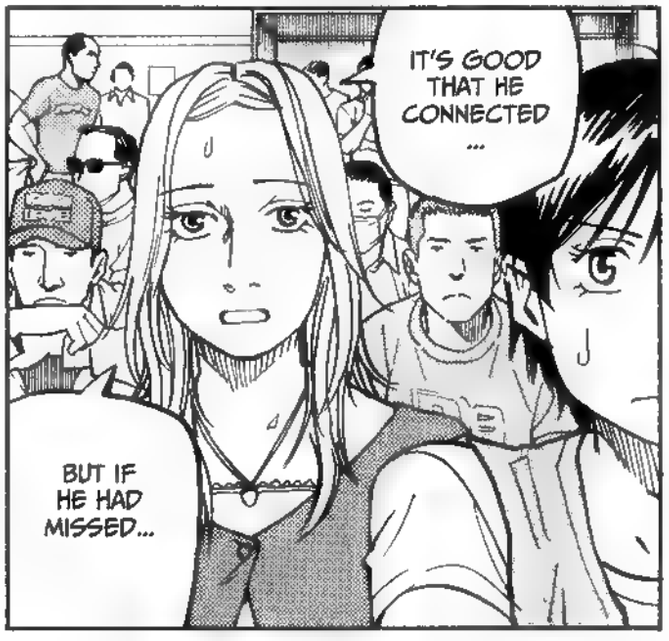



I'M ALL RIGHT ...
IT DOESN'T HURT...

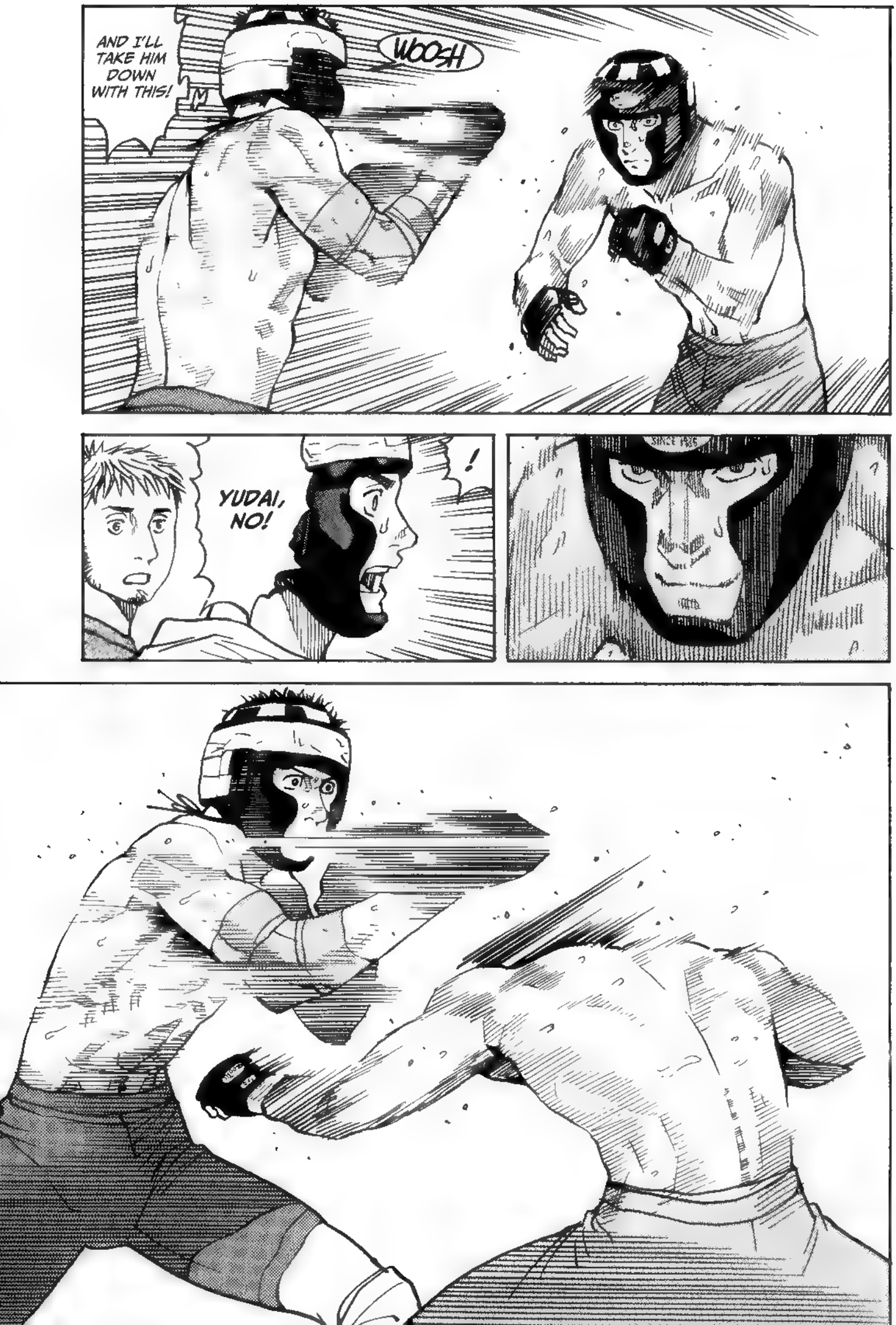

TWO!
ONE!
DTP

FOUR!

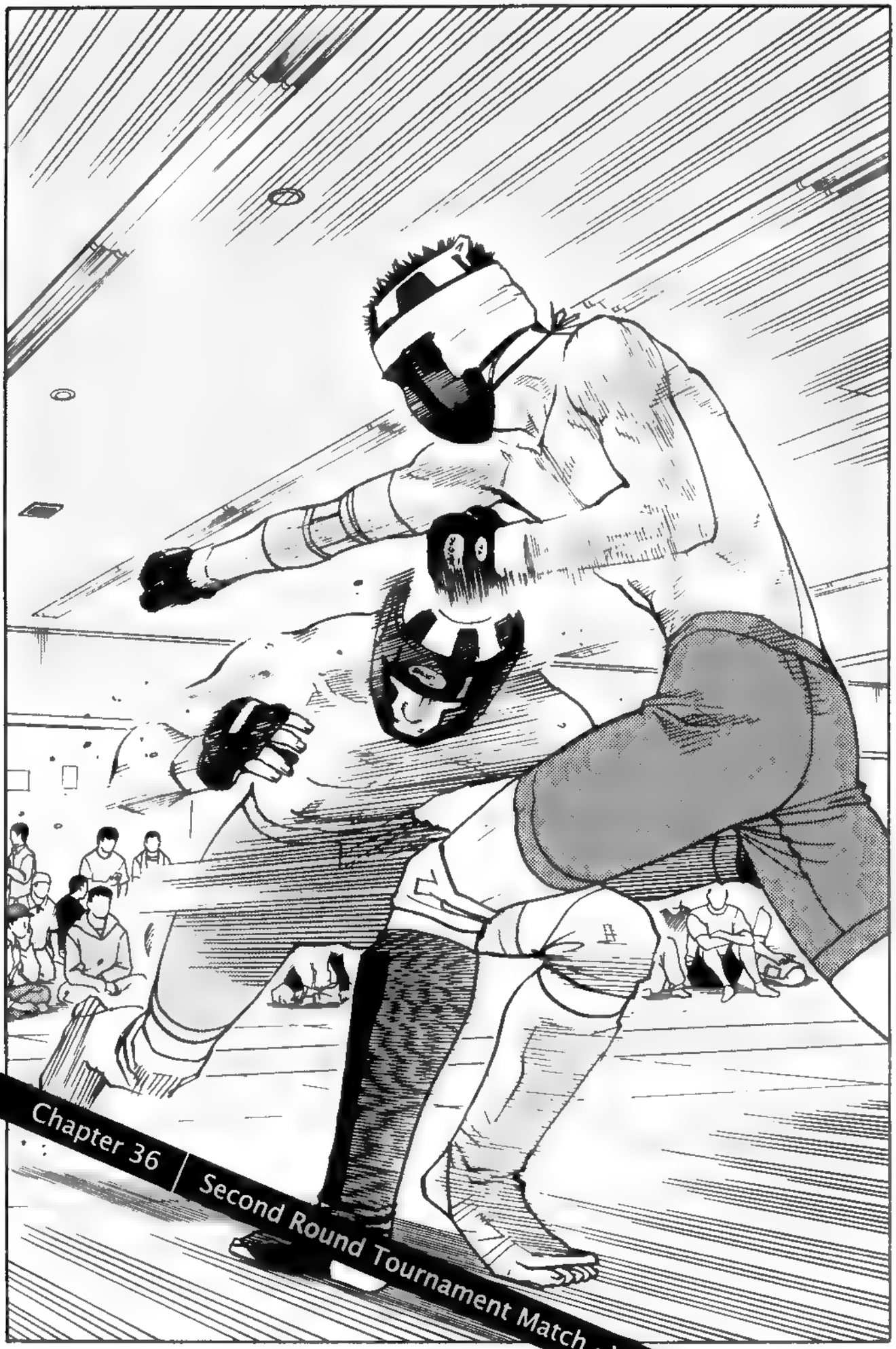
...A STRAIGHT RIGHT...
HE USED...


IT'S GOOD THAT HE CONNECTED ...
BUT IF HE HAD MISSED...

IF I DON'T TAKE HIM DOWN NOW...
WHATEVER, NOW'S MY CHANCE...
FIGHT!
I GOT HIM IN THE CHIN, BUT...
DID I NOT HAVE ENOUGH WEIGHT BEHIND IT...?
OOPS.
HE STEPPED BACK AGAIN.
THERE!
...IT'LL BE A CINCH.
AS LONG AS I CAN SEE THROUGH HIS HOOKS AND SHOTS...
SHOOTO

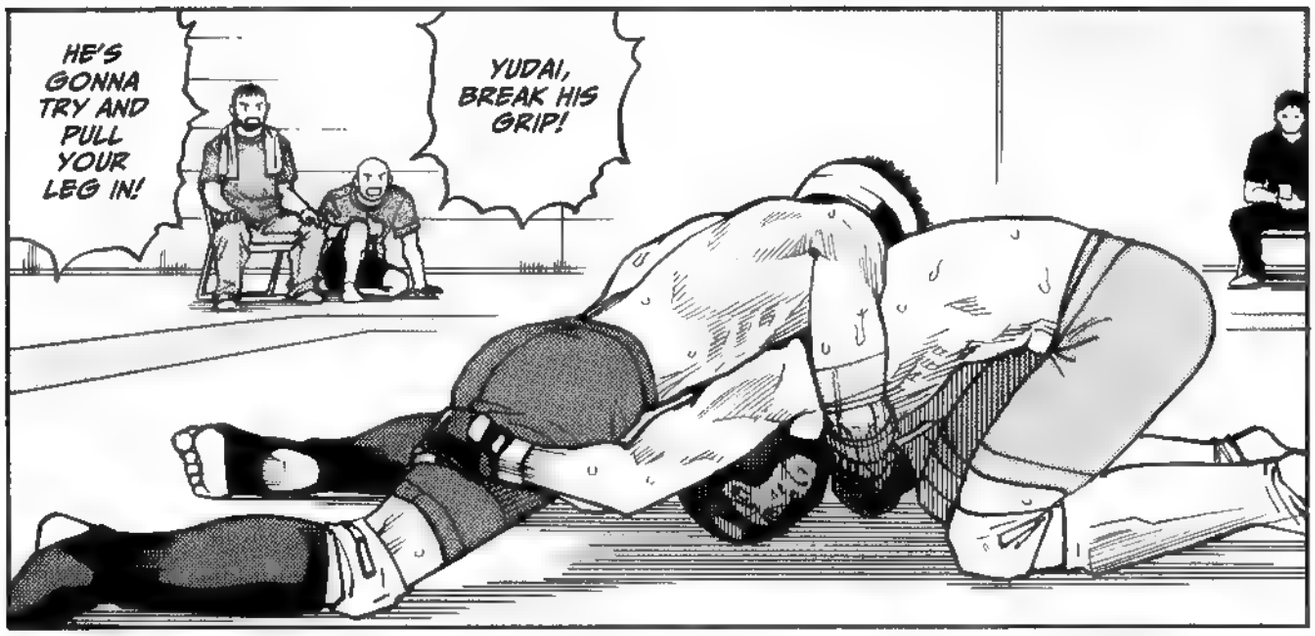

AND I'LL TAKE HIM DOWN WITH THIS!
WOOSH
YUDAI, NO!
!

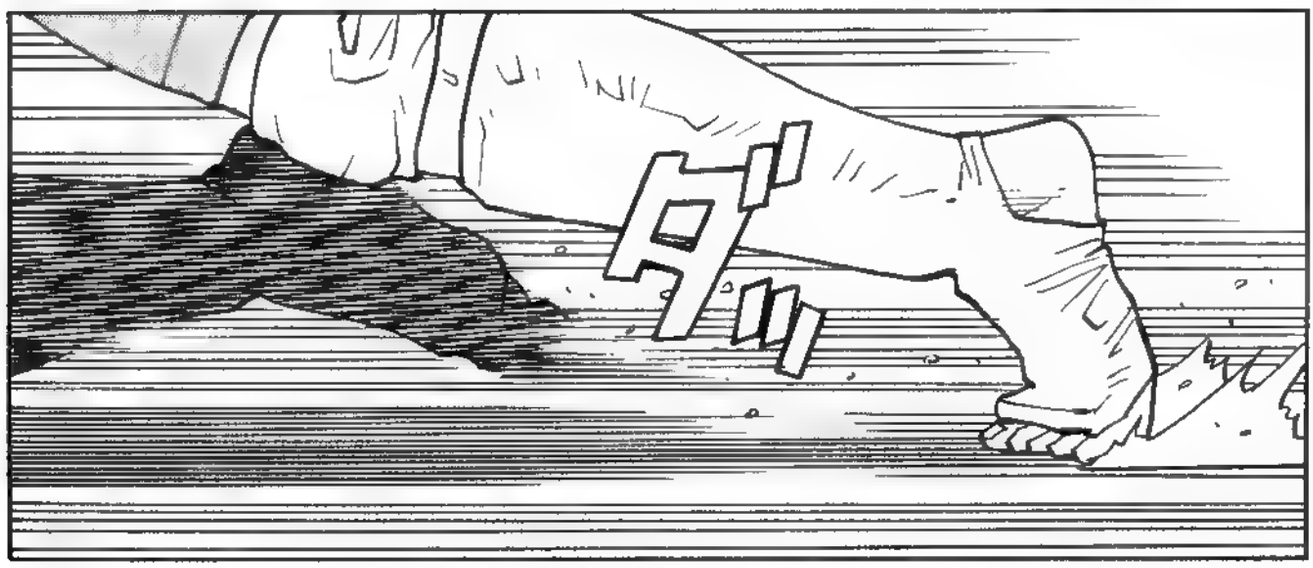
!
ﾋｭ
ﾘﾘﾘ

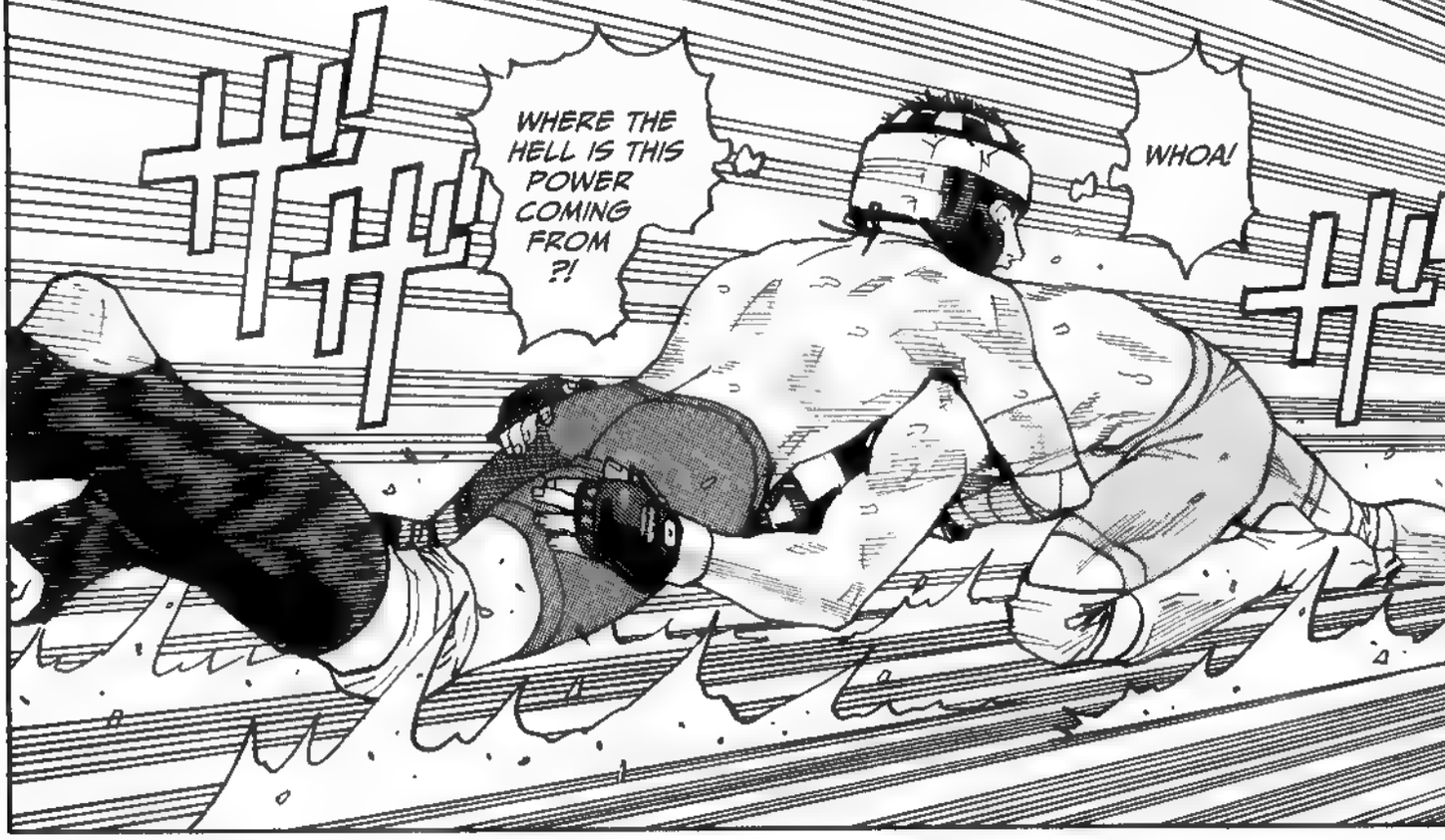


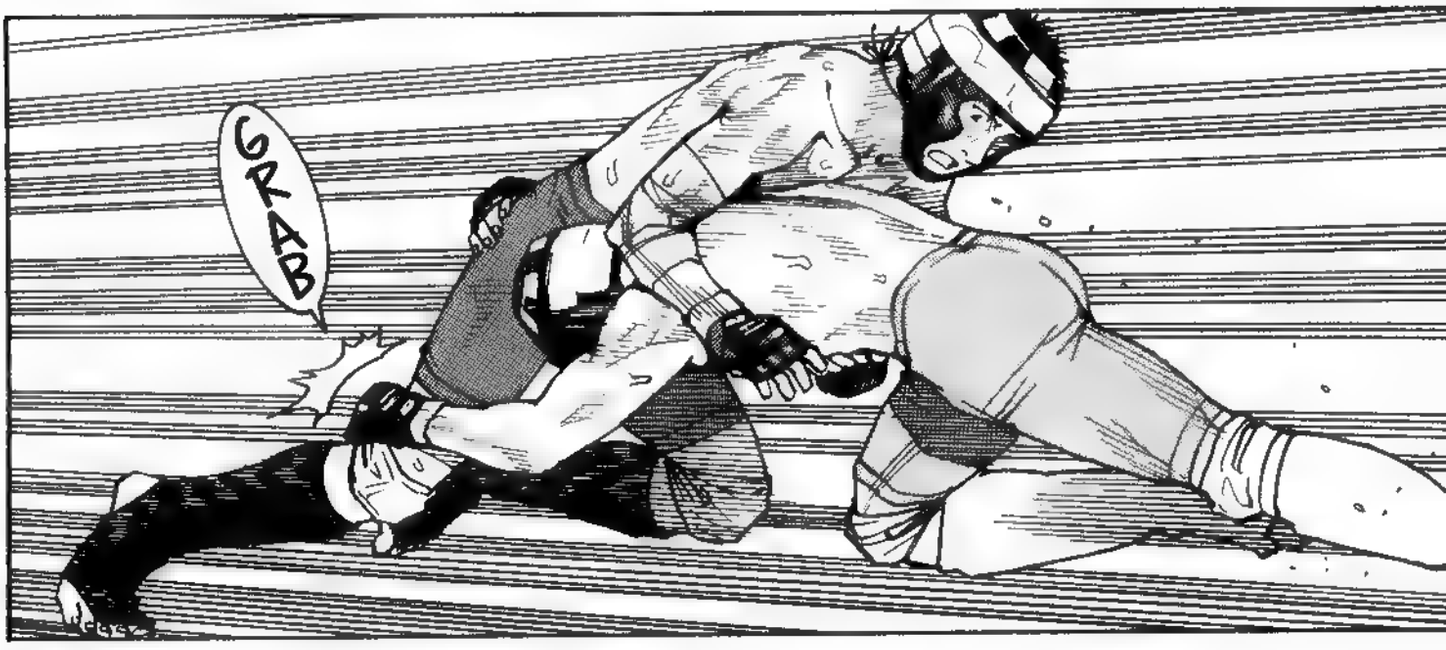
Chapter 36 | Second Round Tournament Match ~Yudai~ (Part 2)

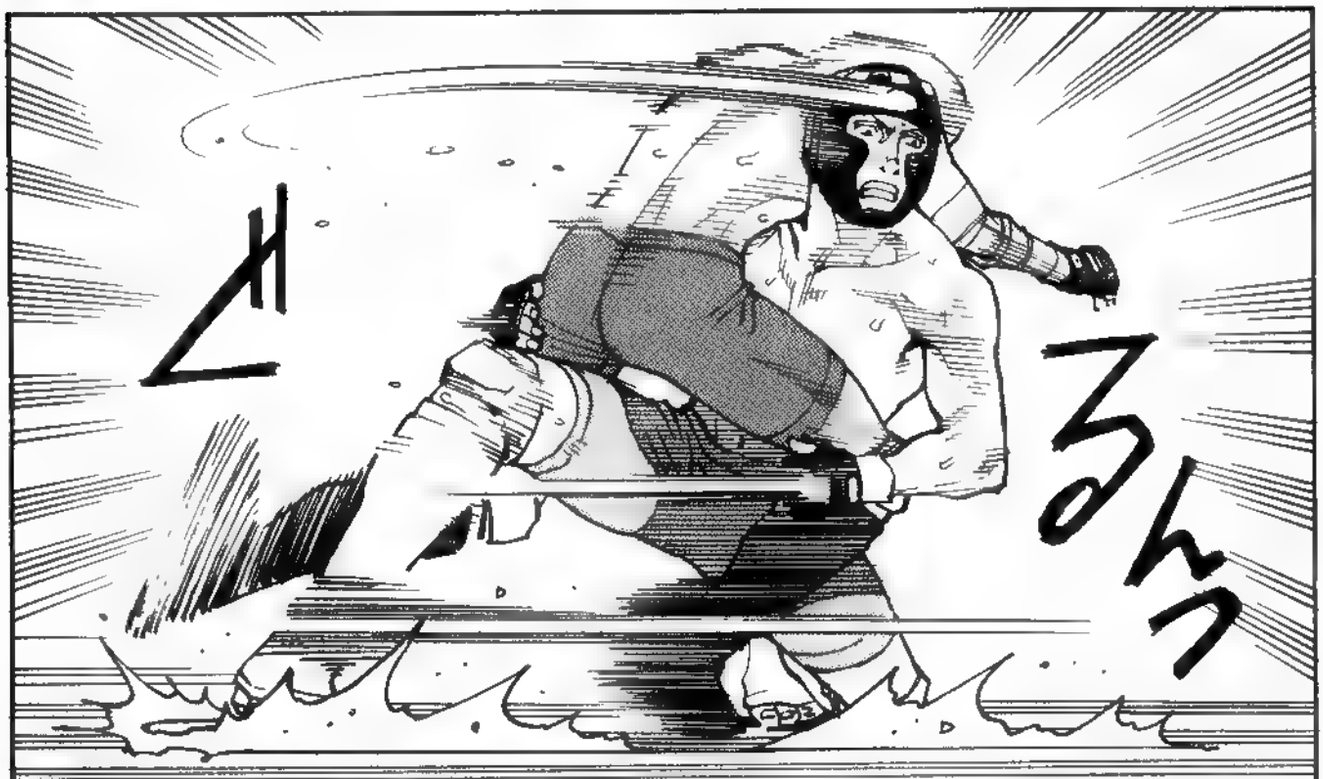
ヒヒ
キュッ
MY ELBOW ...?!
ACK!


HE'S GONNA TRY AND PULL YOUR LEG IN!
YUDAI, BREAK HIS GRIP!

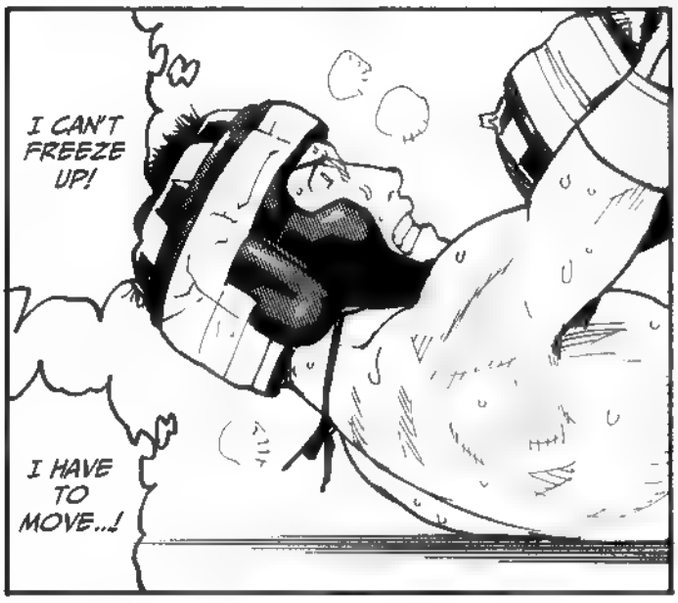


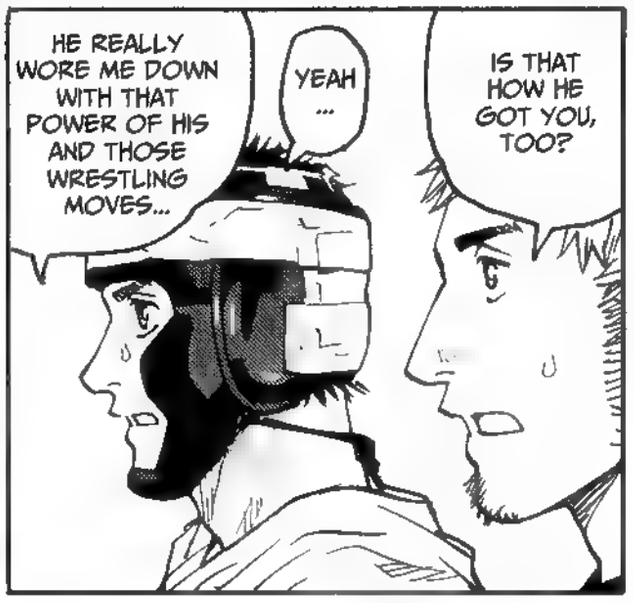

WHERE THE HELL IS THIS POWER COMING FROM ?!
WHOA!


GRAB



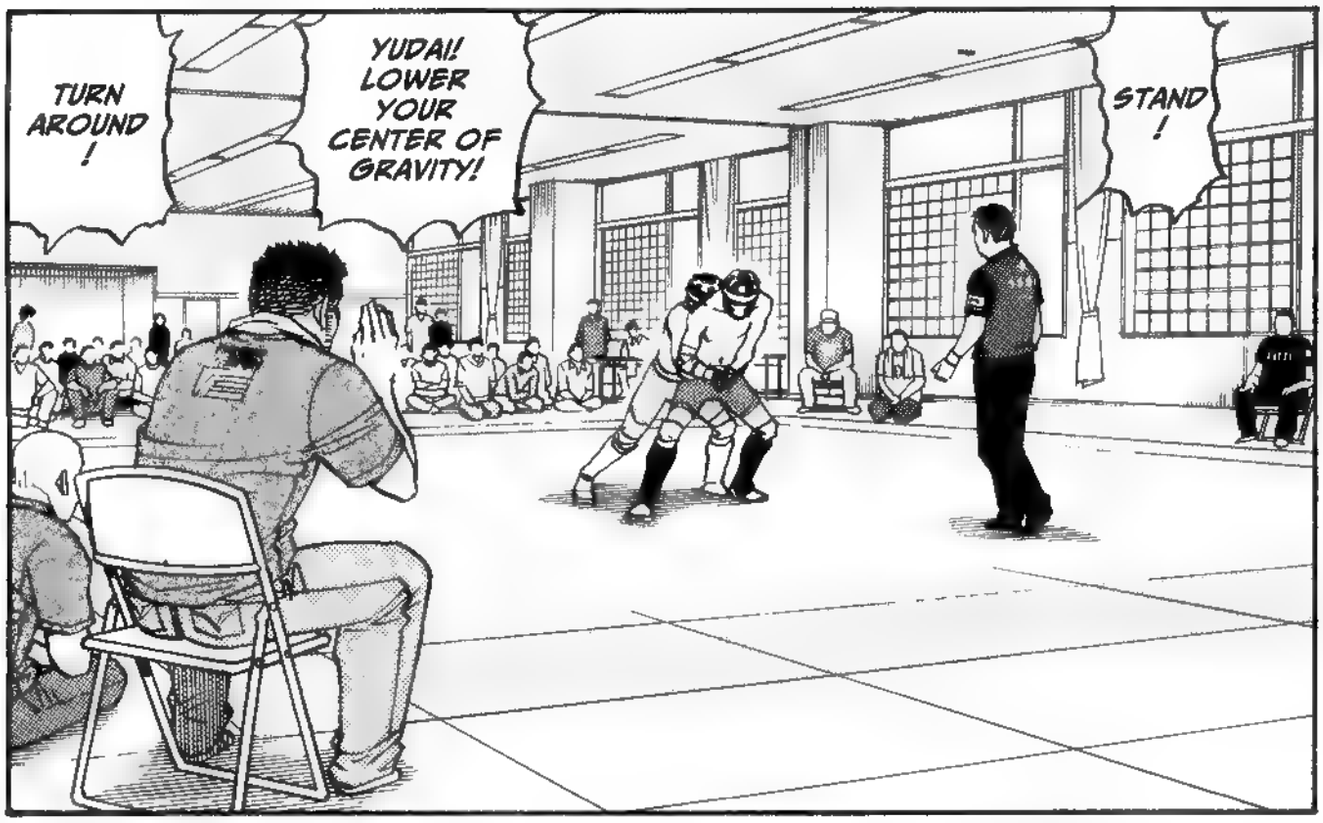
HEY!
TOP.
TAKE-DOWN.
TACHIBANA, PUT HIM ON HIS BACK!


I CAN'T FREEZE UP!
I HAVE TO MOVE...!

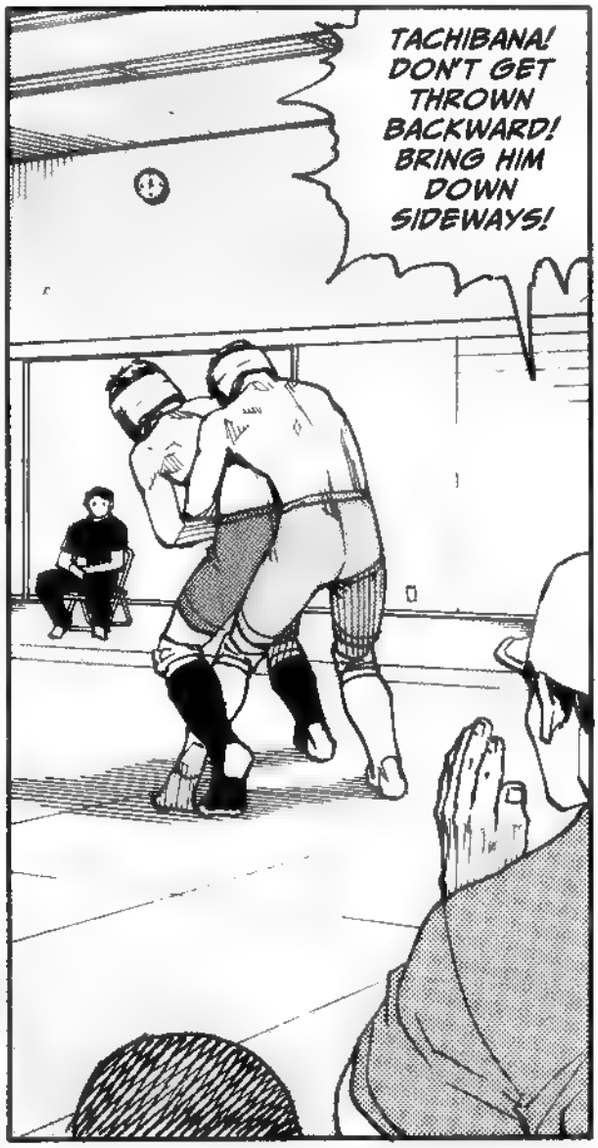

HE REALLY WORE ME DOWN WITH THAT POWER OF HIS AND THOSE WRESTLING MOVES...
YEAH ...
IS THAT HOW HE GOT YOU, TOO?

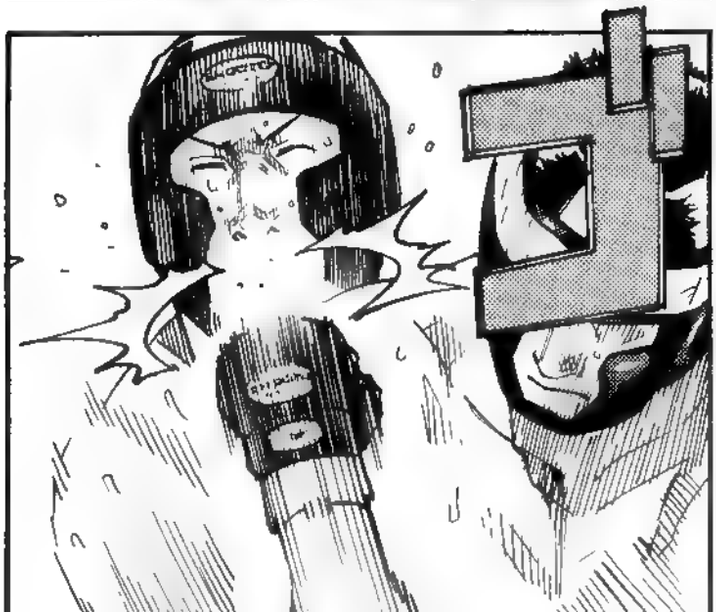
WHOA!
HE FORCED HIS WAY OUT...

ガッ
I LET HIM GET MY BACK...
BUT AT LEAST I CAN STAND UP NOW!


TURN AROUND !
YUDAI! LOWER YOUR CENTER OF GRAVITY!
STAND !

!


TACHIBANA! DON'T GET THROWN BACKWARD! BRING HIM DOWN SIDEWAYS!



NOW'S MY CHANCE!
I CAN TURN!

YOU CAN BEAT HIM, YUDA!
DAMN IT!
SO WHAT IF MY STUPID ELBOW...
...
YES! THAT'S IT!
...IS HURTING!
IT'S A HIP SWEEP ...!
WATCH OUT, TACHI-BANA!

TOP.
TAKE-DOWN.
SIDE MOUNT.
PIN!
KEEP HIM PINNED, YUDAI!
YES!

HUH ?!
HE GAVE UP ON THAT ARMLOCK...
IT'S HIS ELBOW...
SHIT, HE'S GETTING UP?!
HE'S FORCING HIS WAY UP!
WHA ?!

I'M GONNA CHOKE HIM OUT!
I DON'T CARE!
HE'S ON MY RIGHT SIDE!
DAMN ...!

TACHI-BANA, GET OUT OF THERE!
CATCH!
PUSH HIS HEAD WITH YOUR ELBOW!
AN ARM TRI-ANGLE!
HE'S GOING FOR IT ON THE RIGHT SIDE...?!
...IT'S GOTTA HURT LIKE HELL.
BUT...
THAT HOLD SHOULDN'T DO LASTING DAMAGE TO HIS ELBOW.
...
SHOOTO

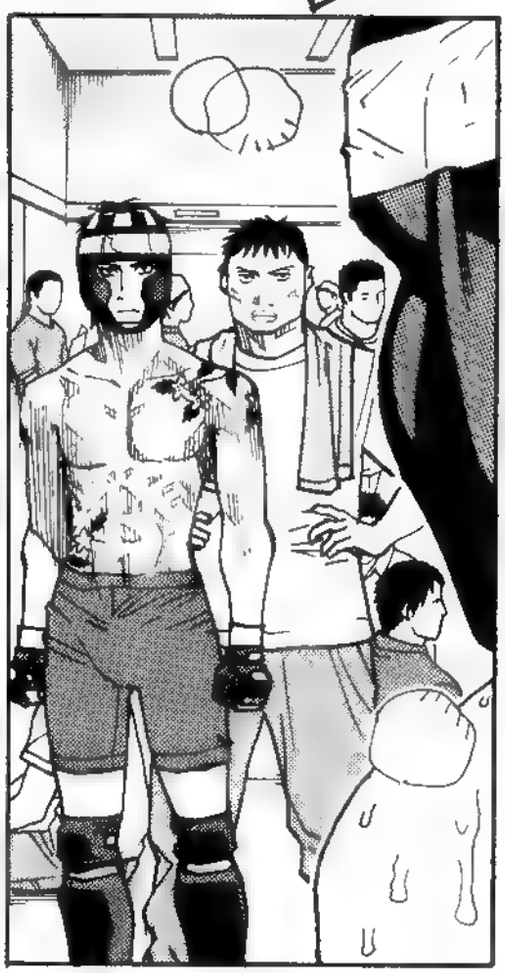
TAP
!

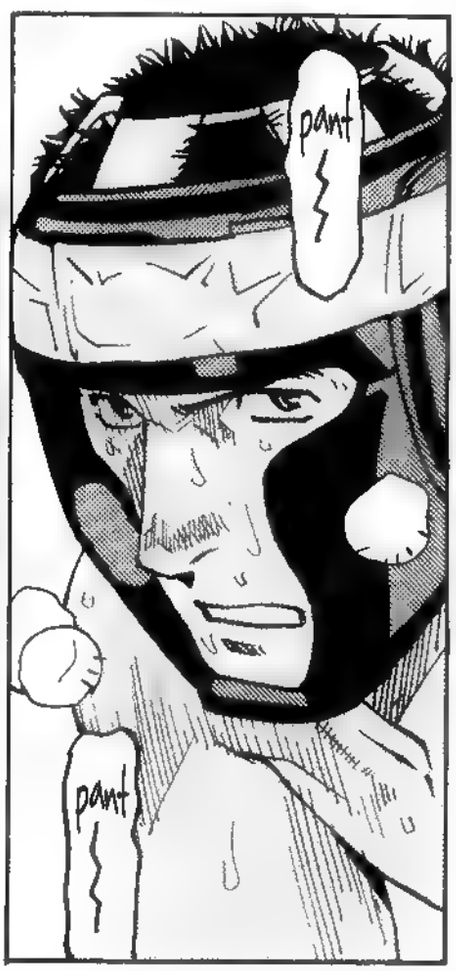
ガシャガシャ
STOP
!

MATCH
OVER!

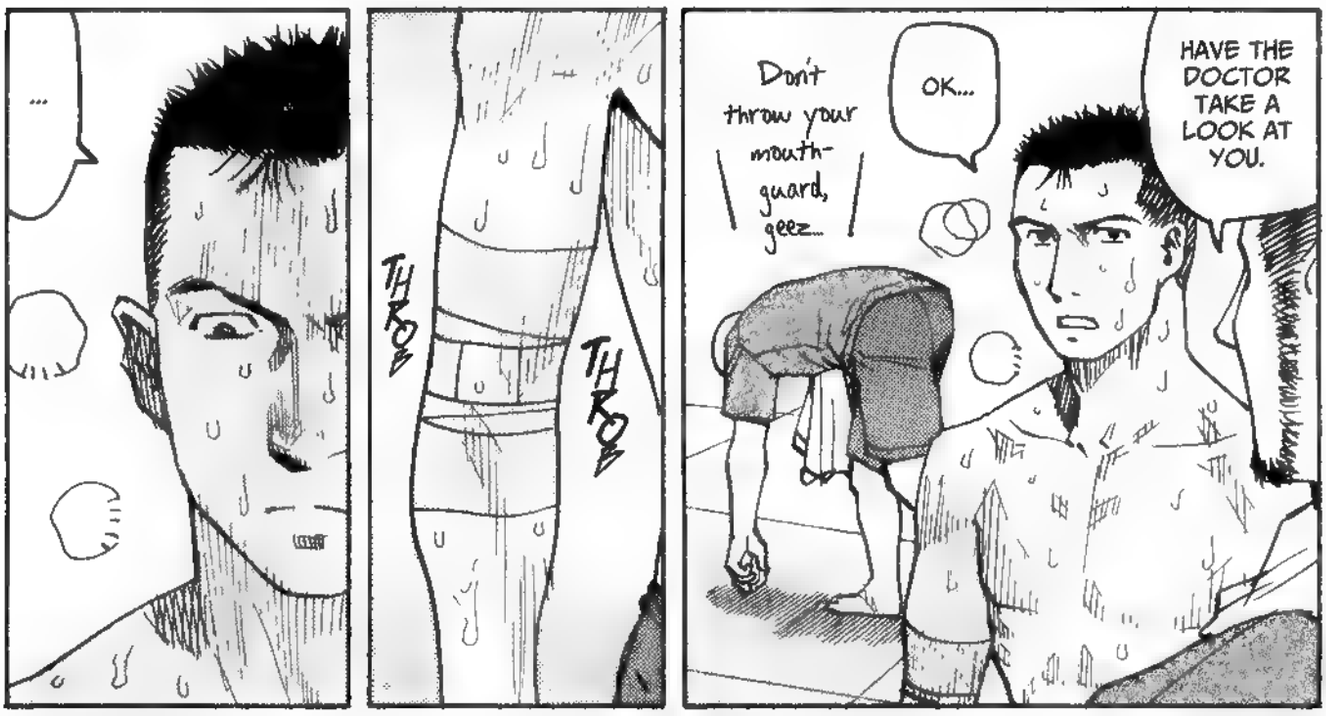
POP
pant
pant
HE DID IT...

HELL YEAHHH !




pant
pant

IF YOU WIN THE NEXT ONE...
...YOU'LL BE UP AGAINST HIM IN THE SEMI-FINALS.
The referee has called the stop to this contest at 2 minutes and 47 seconds...
...

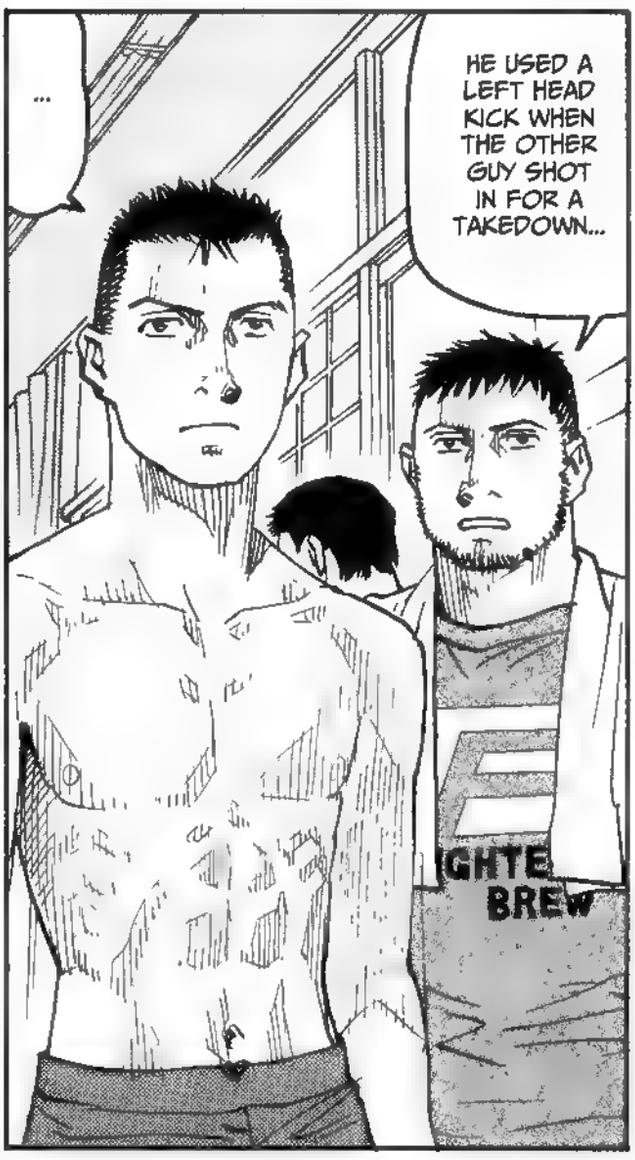


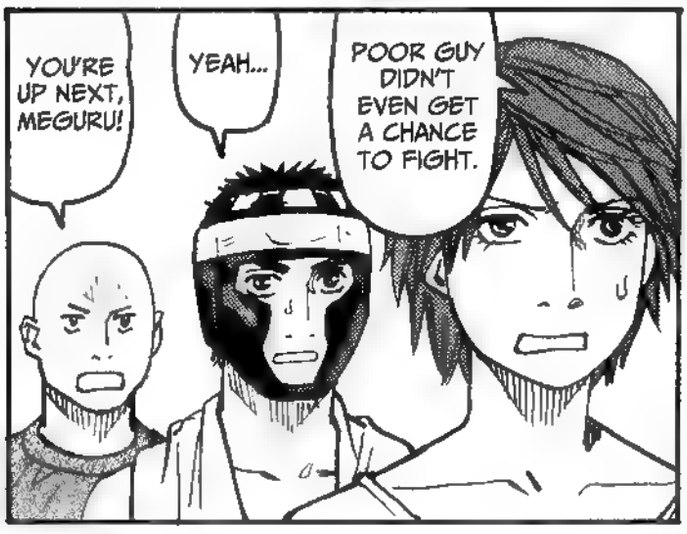
SIGN (LEFT): TAPING CHECK.

SIGN (RIGHT): DOCTOR CHECK.

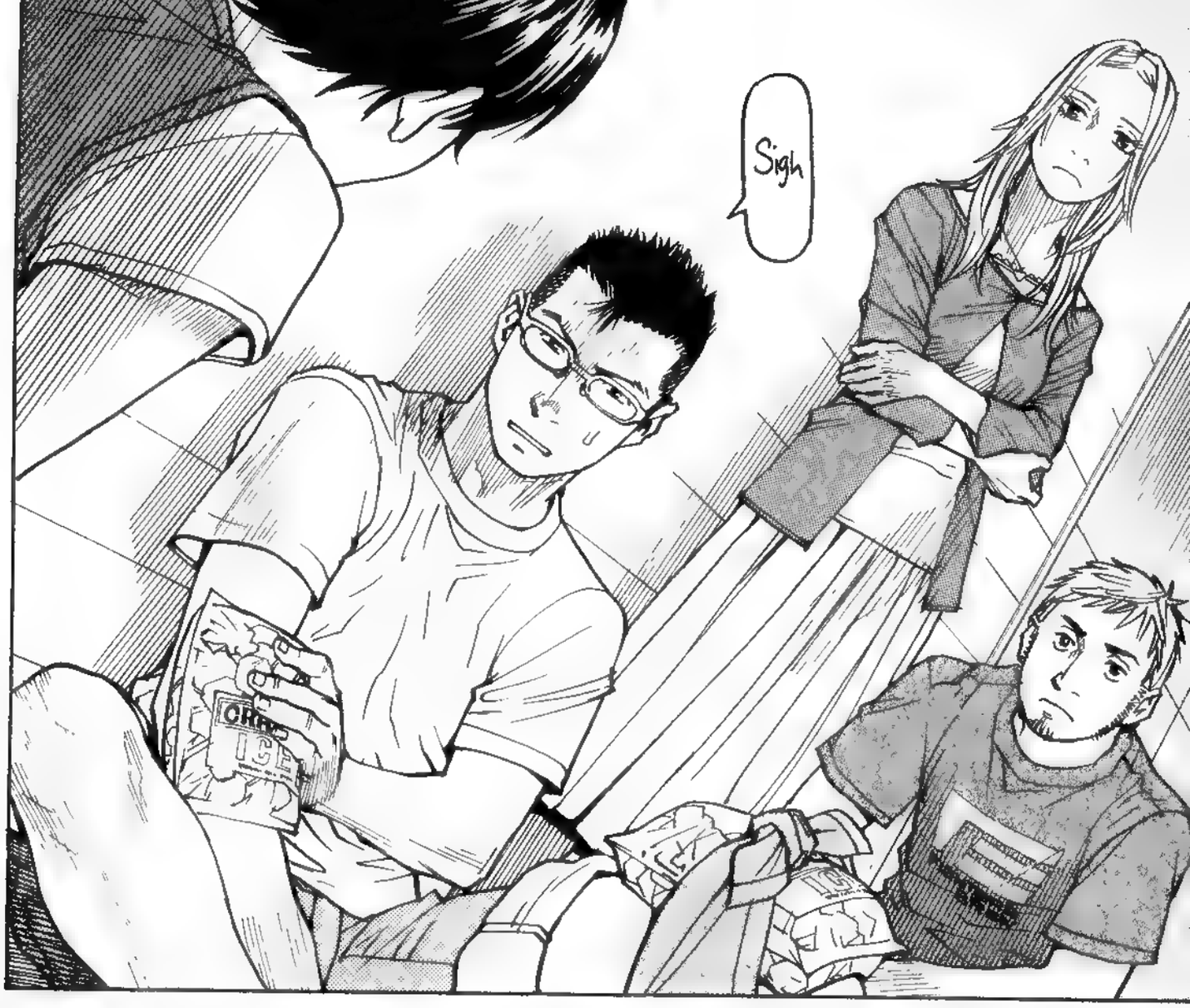
MAKE SURE TO KEEP IT ICED.
OK.
IF IT REALLY STARTS HURTING, YOU'D BETTER FORFEIT--
...

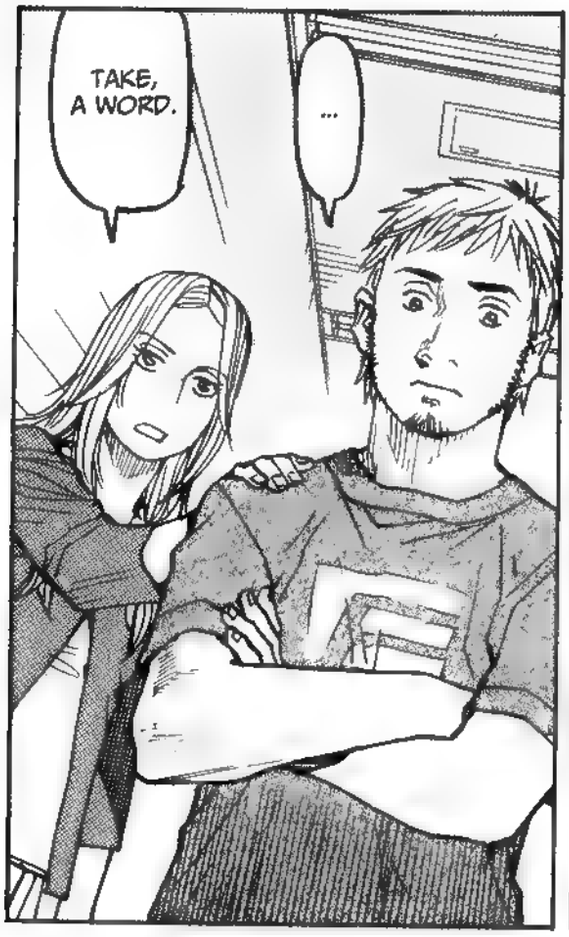
カニ
Match over!

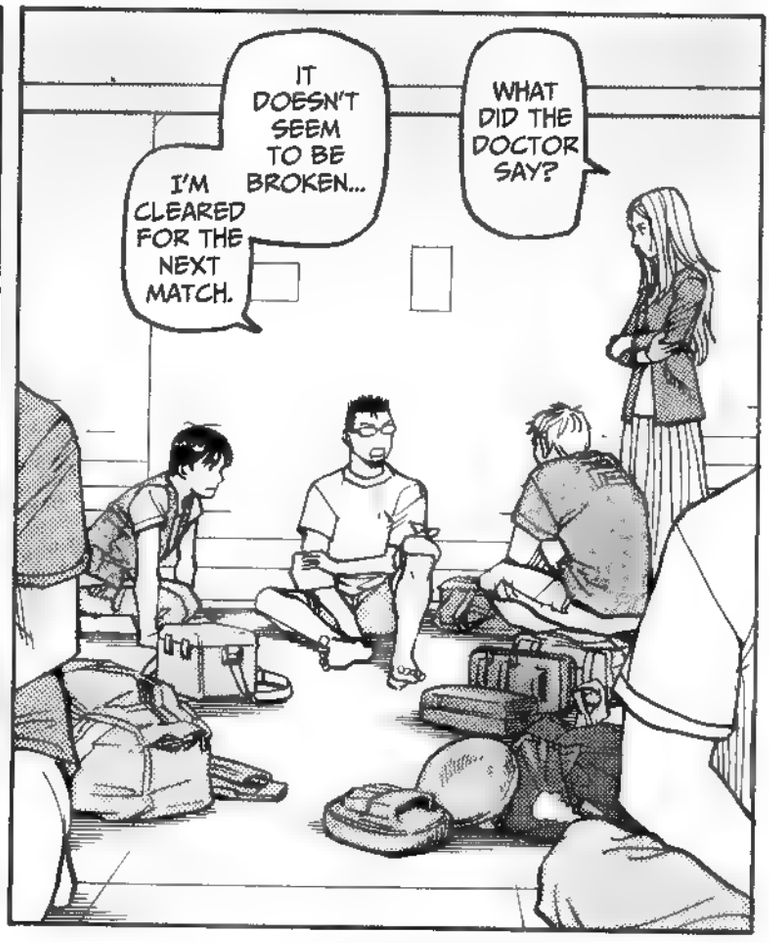

...
HE USED A LEFT HEAD KICK WHEN THE OTHER GUY SHOT IN FOR A TAKEDOWN...
GHTE
BREW


YOU'RE UP NEXT, MEGURU!
YEAH...
POOR GUY DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO FIGHT.

Chapter 37 | Second Round Tournament Match ~Meguru~ (Part 1)


Sigh
ICE

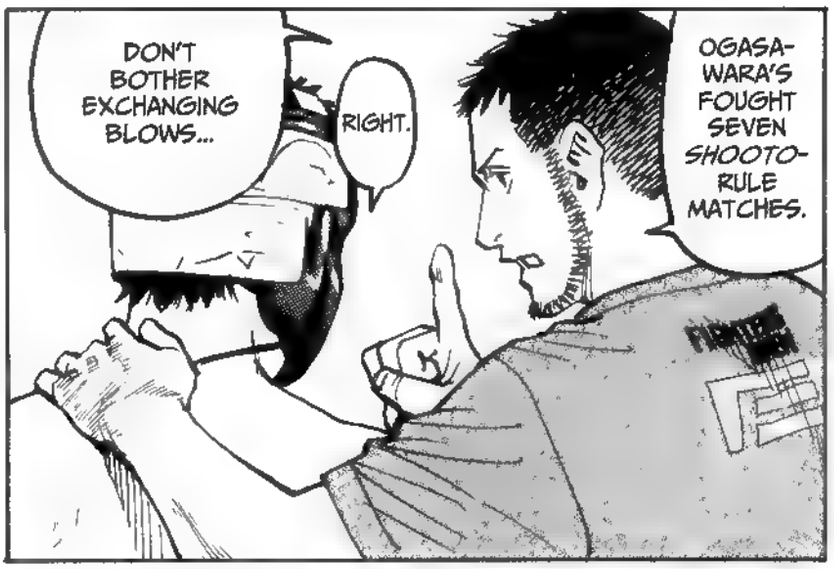

TAKE, A WORD.
...

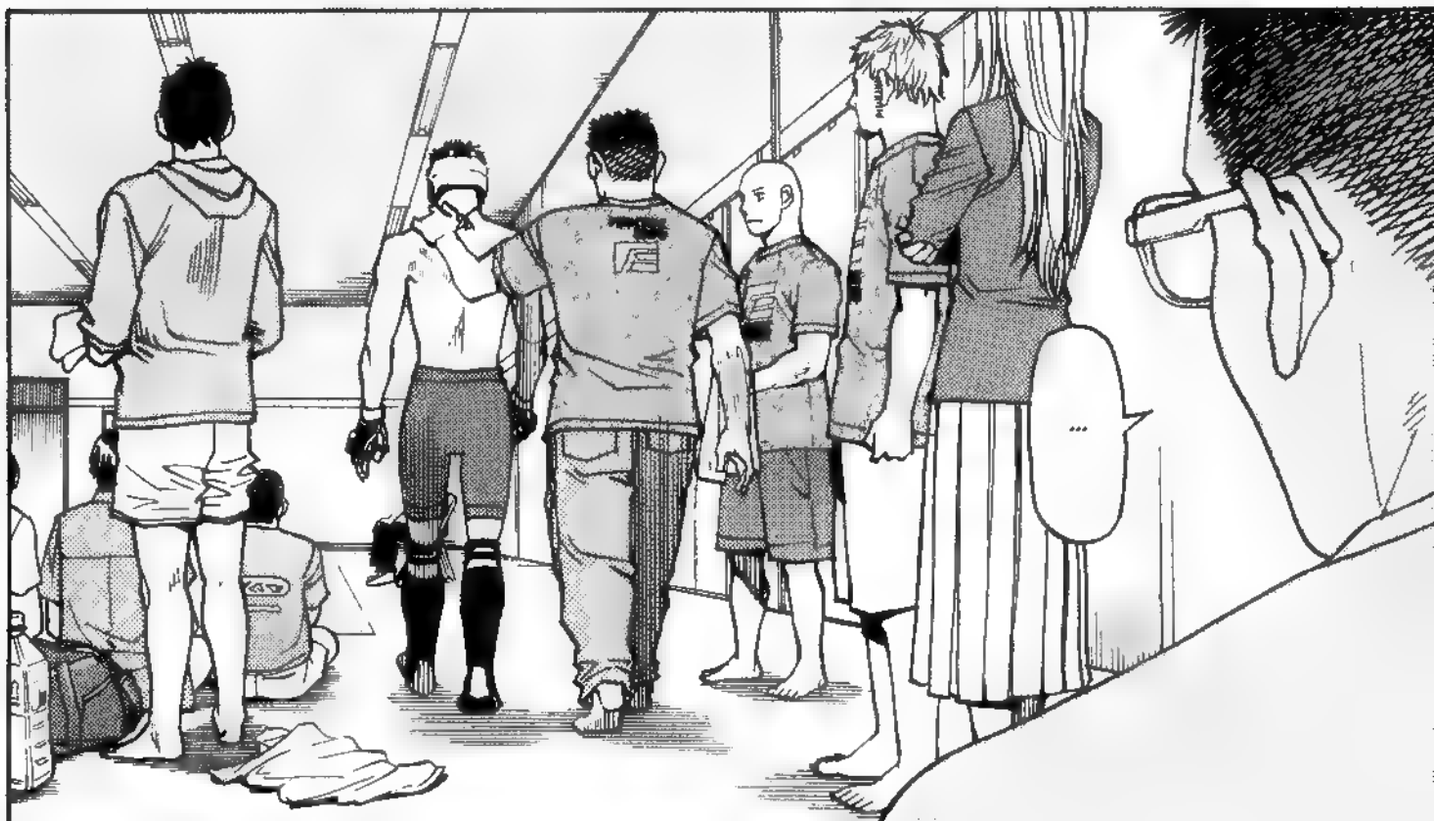

WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY?
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE BROKEN...
I'M CLEARED FOR THE NEXT MATCH.

IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S TAKEN ANY DAMAGE TO THE HEAD...
EVEN THOUGH HE'LL GO TO THE FINALS IF HE WINS THE NEXT ROUND?
TAKE...
THERE'S ALSO THE DAMAGE FROM THOSE LEG KICKS IN ROUND ONE.
HE CAN'T THROW A STRAIGHT RIGHT ANYMORE.
TELL KENICHIRO TO URGE HIM TO FORFEIT THE NEXT FIGHT.
HIS NEXT OPPONENT IS *TAKASHI YAMABUKI.*
THAT'S THE ***LAST PERSON*** HE SHOULD BE FIGHTING IN HIS CONDITION!
...HE'LL SPEND THE WHOLE FOUR MINUTES...
IF YUDAI CAN'T TAKE HIM DOWN FROM THE GET-GO...
...GETTING HIS RIGHT ARM DEMOLISHED BY THOSE LEFT MIDDLE KICKS.

I'M SURE...
...KENICHIRO KNOWS THAT, TOO.

GLANCE


DON'T BOTHER EXCHANGING BLOWS...
RIGHT.
OGASA-WARA'S FOUGHT SEVEN SHOOTO-RULE MATCHES.


...

Match 38!
Light-weight division, round two!
YEAH ?
AI-KAWA.
...TELL MEGURU ...
AFTER THIS MATCH IS OVER...

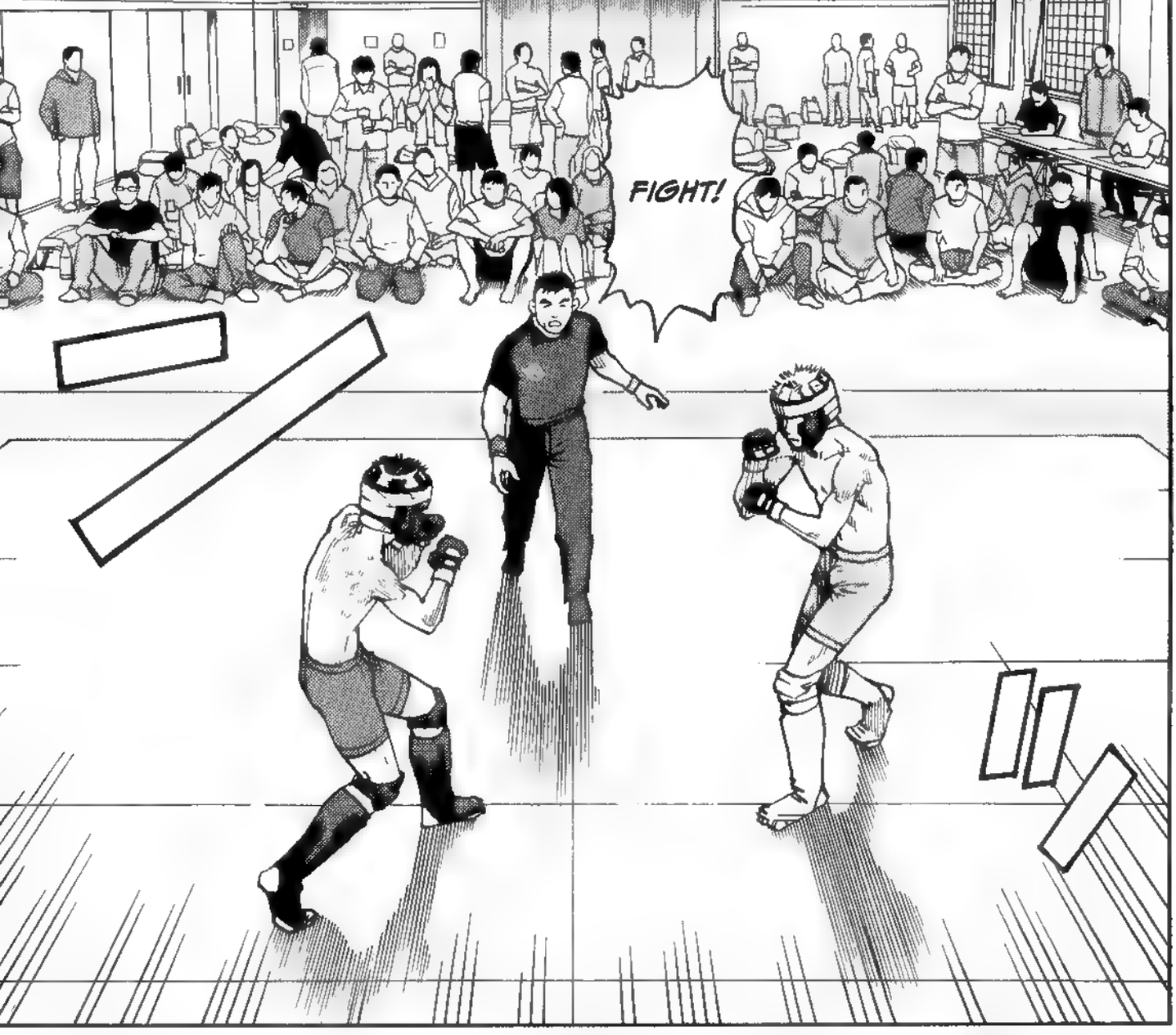
...NOT TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
RETIRE
MEGURU! STAY STANDING THIS TIME!
DON'T LET HIM TAKE YOU DOWN!
GOT IT!
...
TELL HIM YOURSELF.
Jeez.
UGH ...

IS SHE THREATENING ME?!
EH?!
YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T USE IT!
WHAT THE HECK?!
THE LEFT MIDDLE KICK!
ME-GURU!

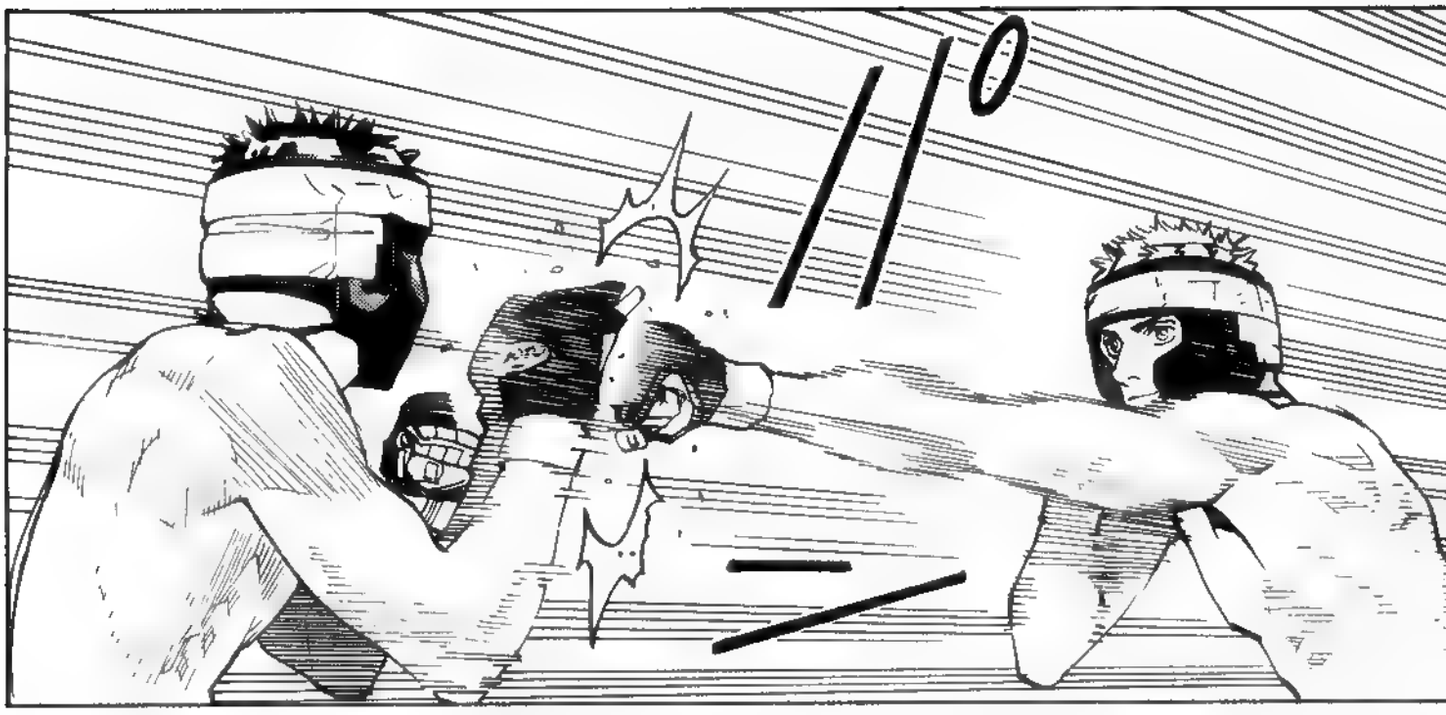
KIYOSHI!
YOU'D BETTER NOT LOSE TO THE SAME GUY TWICE!
I KNOW!

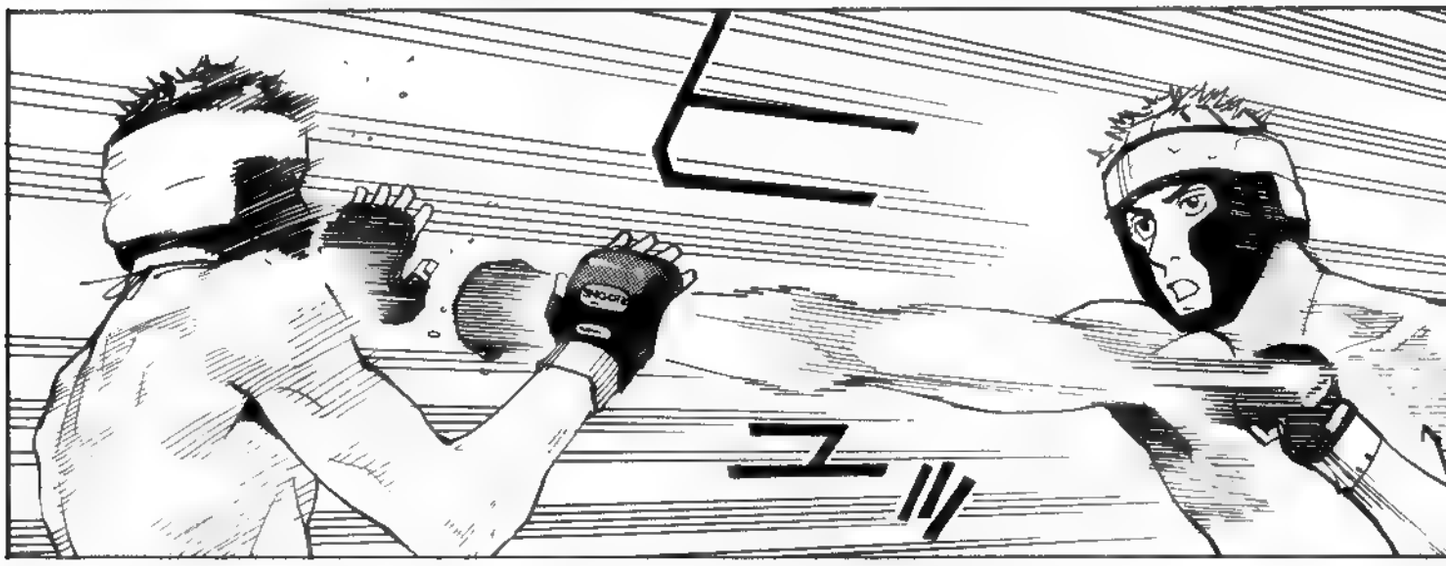
I DON'T CARE IF STRIKES ARE ALLOWED...
WHATEVER THE RULES, I'M GONNA FINISH THE MATCH WITH *JIU-JITSU.*

I'M GONNA TAKE HIM DOWN AND SUBMIT HIM...
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A *JIU-JITSUKA!*

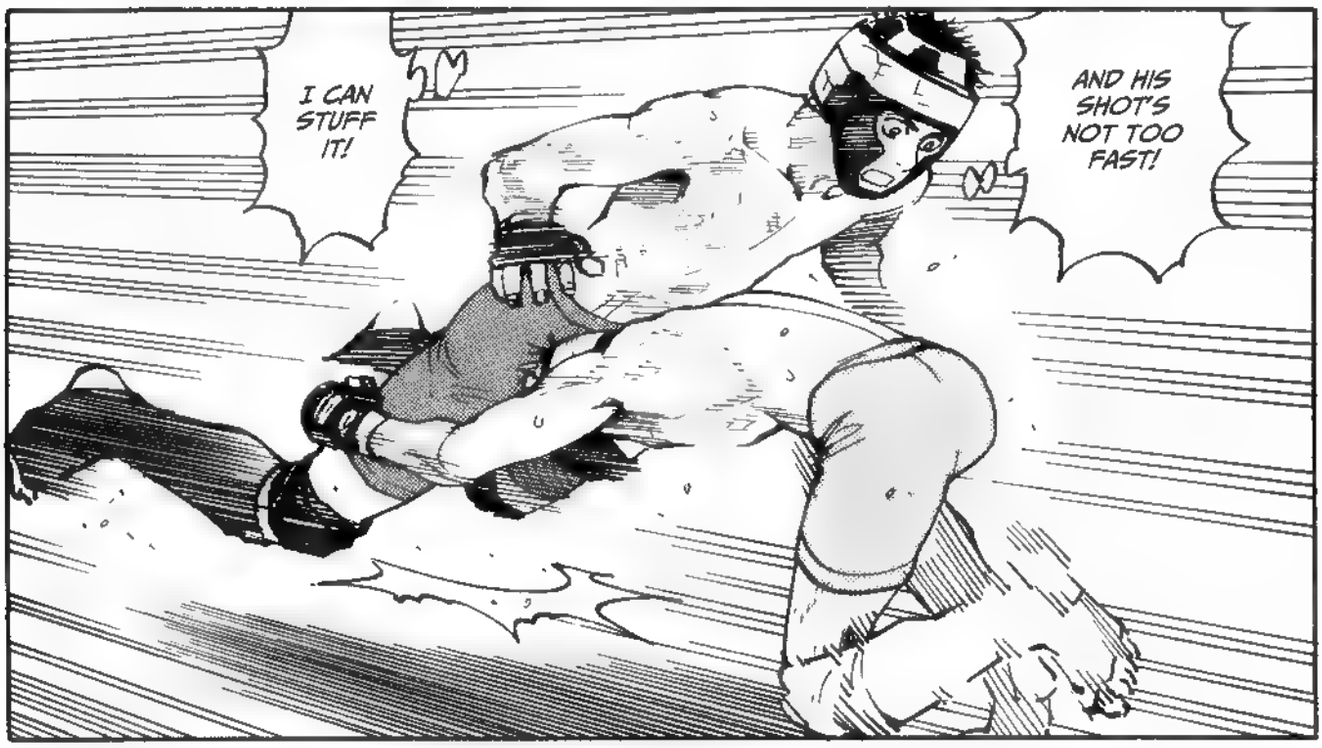

FIGHT!

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF STRIKER HE IS?
THAT WAS A GRAPPLING MATCH BEFORE...
SHOOTO
4U



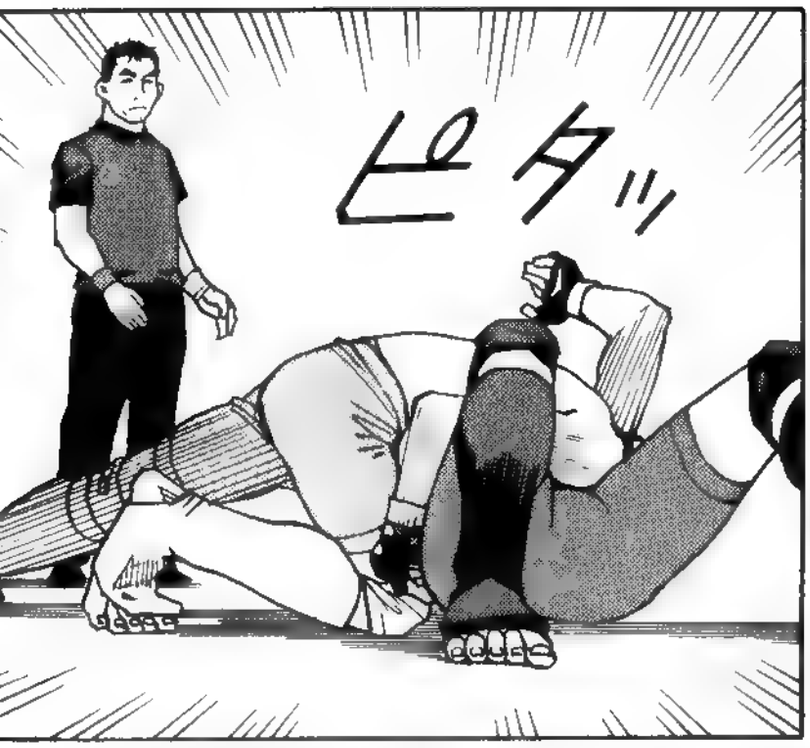


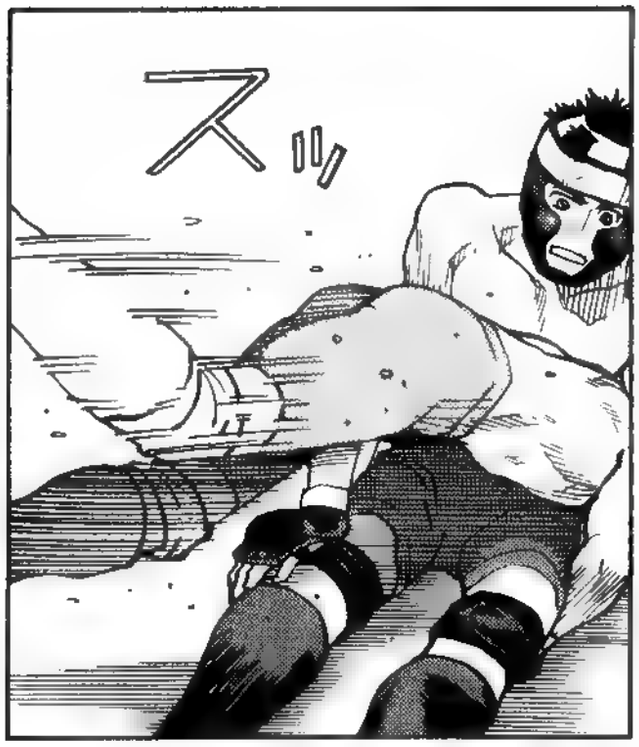
THAT'S BY THE BOOK!
HE SET THE TAKEDOWN UP WITH A ONE-TWO COMBO?!

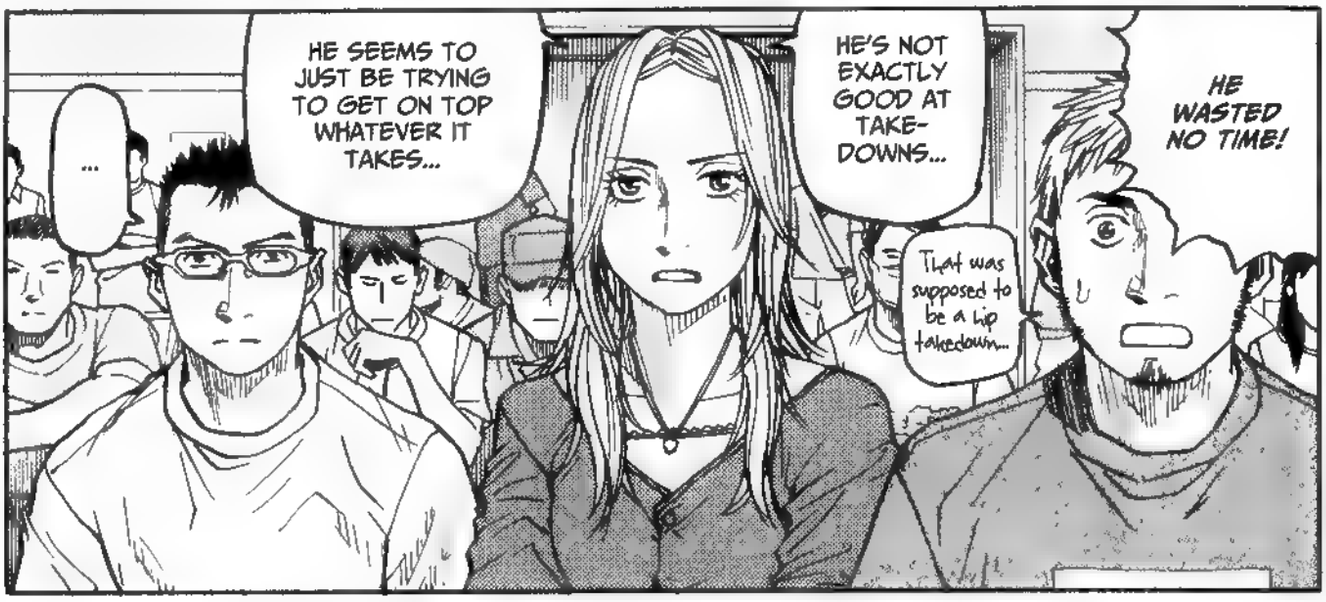

I CAN STUFF IT!
AND HIS SHOT'S NOT TOO FAST!

!

YOU'RE TOO SLOW!
HE'S GOT ME- GURU'S LEGS!
A DIVE ?!


ピタッ


スッ


...
HE SEEMS TO JUST BE TRYING TO GET ON TOP WHATEVER IT TAKES...
HE'S NOT EXACTLY GOOD AT TAKE-DOWNS...
That was supposed to be a hip takedown...
HE WASTED NO TIME!

GOOD! NOW TAKE IT SLOW, KIYOSHI!
PIN!
TOP.
SIDE MOUNT.

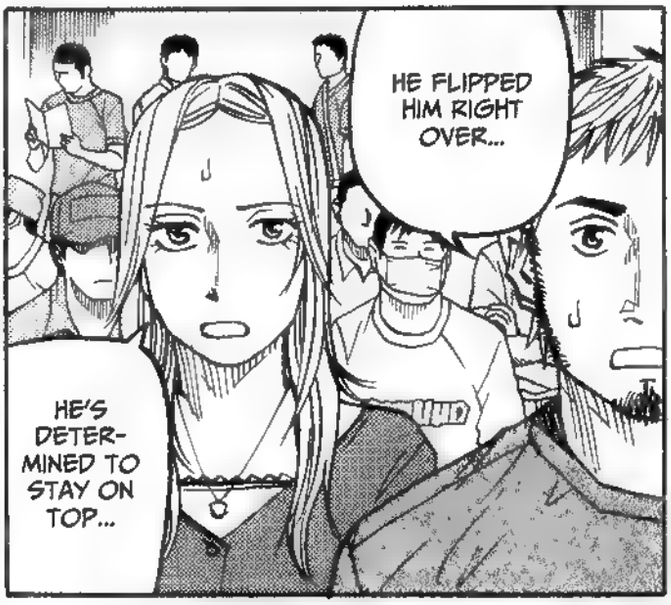
MEGURU
SORRY
UNTIL I GET THE SUBMIS-SION.
BUT I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU UP...

POP
I'VE BEATEN HIM BEFORE..!
CALM DOWN!

ガッ
ガッ
！

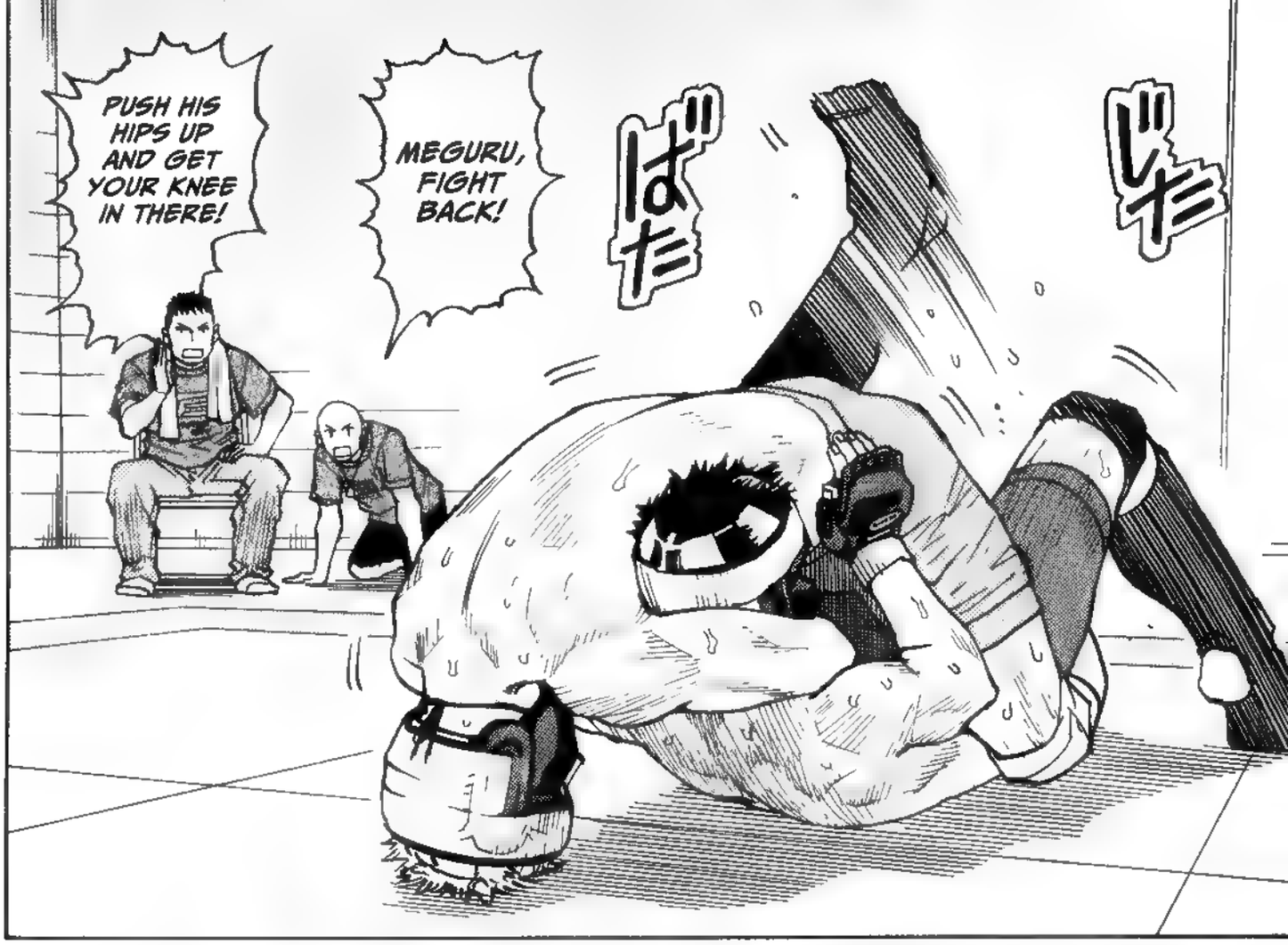
A GUILLO-TINE CHOKE?!
ばっ

YOU GOT A CATCH, KIYOSHI!
CATCH!


HE FLIPPED HIM RIGHT OVER...
HE'S DETER-MINED TO STAY ON TOP...

...
SHOOTO

Chapter 38 | Second Round Tournament Match ~Meguru~ (Part 2)


PUSH HIS HIPS UP AND GET YOUR KNEE IN THERE!
MEGURU, FIGHT BACK!
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ビキ

NNGHHH!
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THAT'S IT! IF YOU CAN CREATE SPACE, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO FINISH THE CHOKE!
TCH!
HE PULLED OUT!
WHOA!
HE CAN AFFORD TO DO THAT BECAUSE HE'S ON TOP, SEE...
...TO CONSERVE ENERGY.
NO, IT'S MORE LIKE HE LET MEGURU GET OUT ON PURPOSE...

キュッ
IF I COULD GET TO HALF GUARD...
CAN'T LET HIM GAIN FULL MOUNT!
HUH?
THAT WAS EASY...
I CAN DO THIS!
HUH? HIS ARM ...?

AN ARM DRAG ?!

!
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UGH! HE GOT ME DOWN..!

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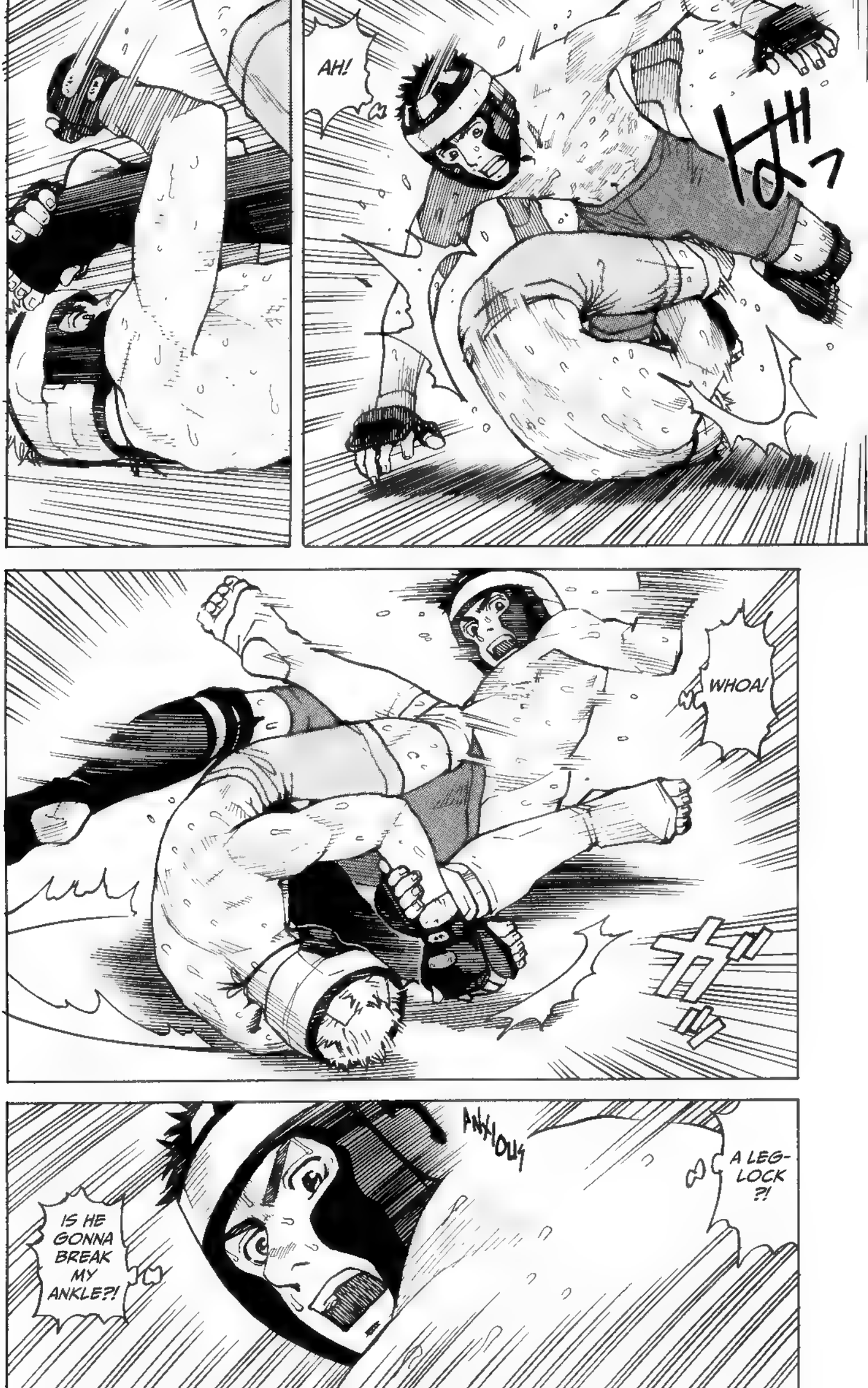
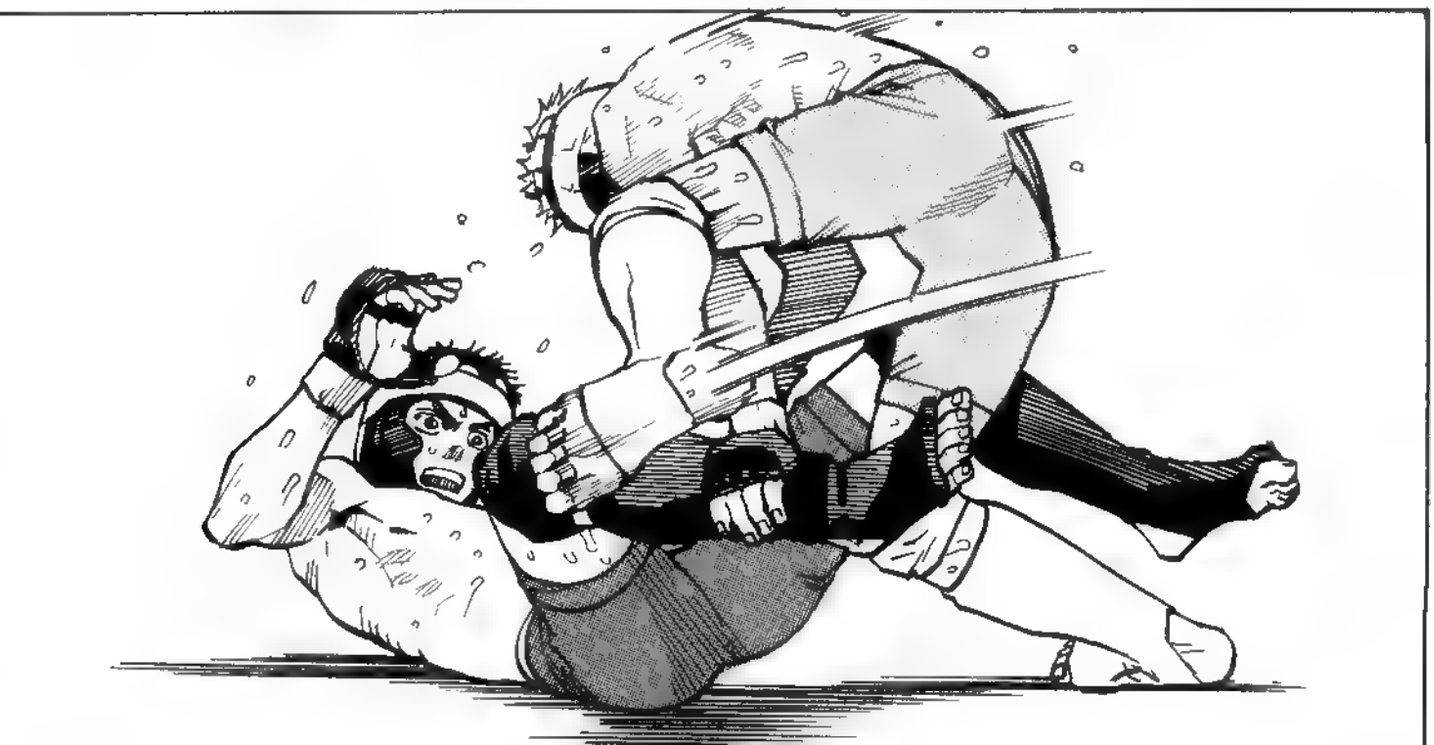
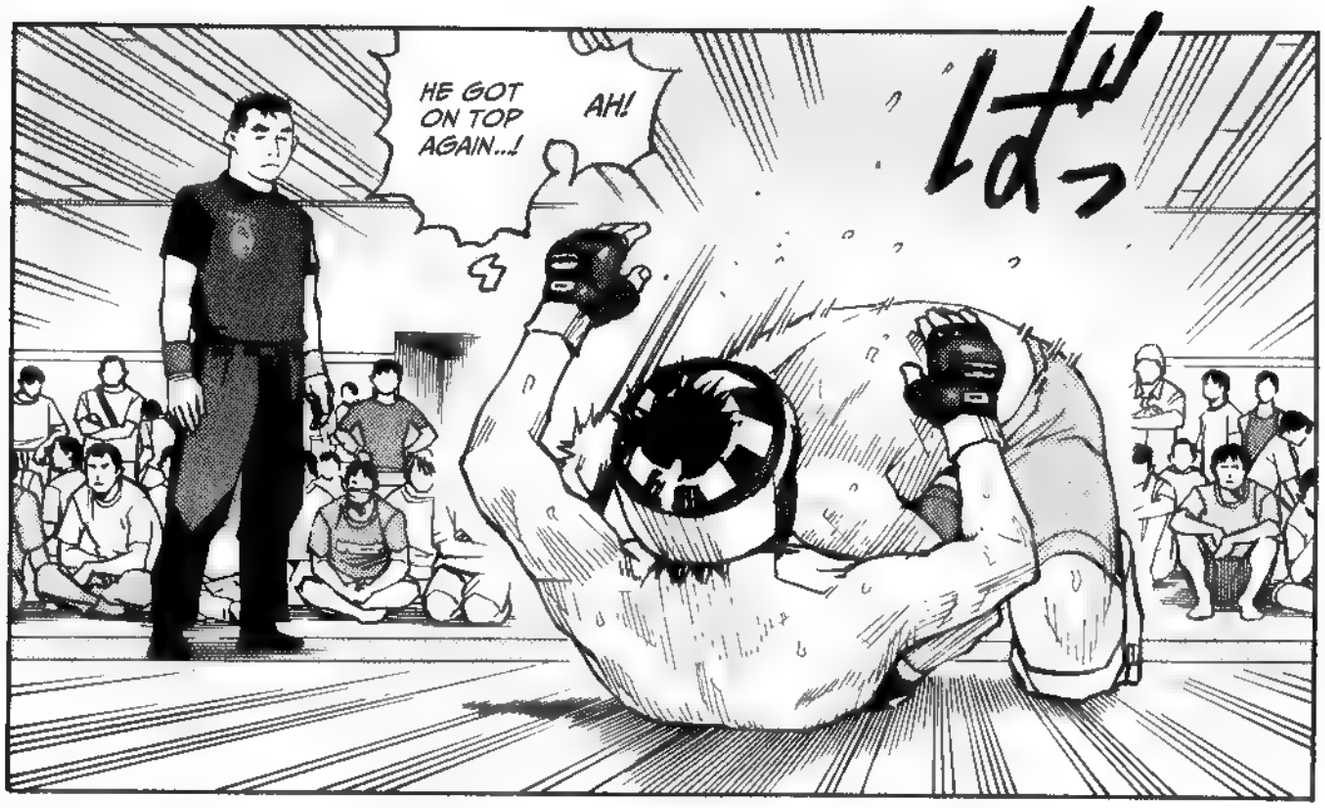
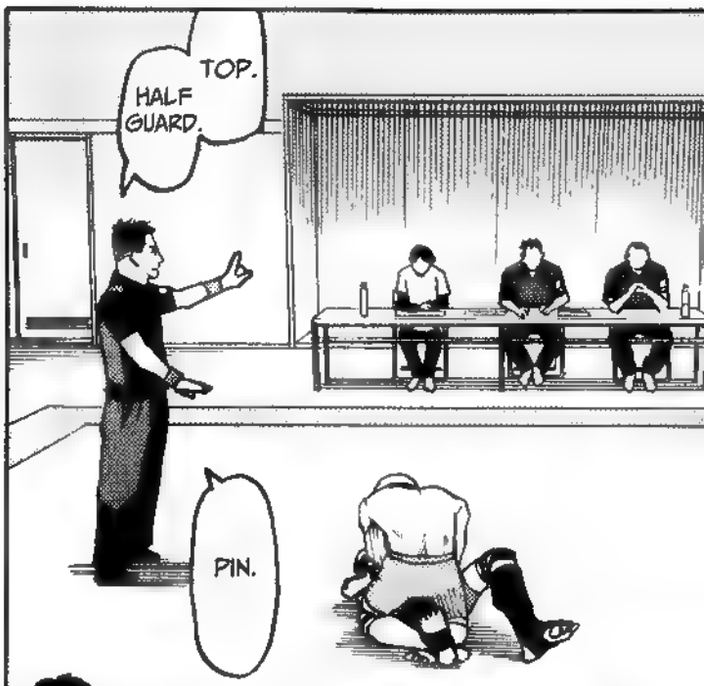
AND THEN I CAN GET ON HIS BACK!
ONE MORE TIME...
NOW FOR A SWITCH ...
GRAB

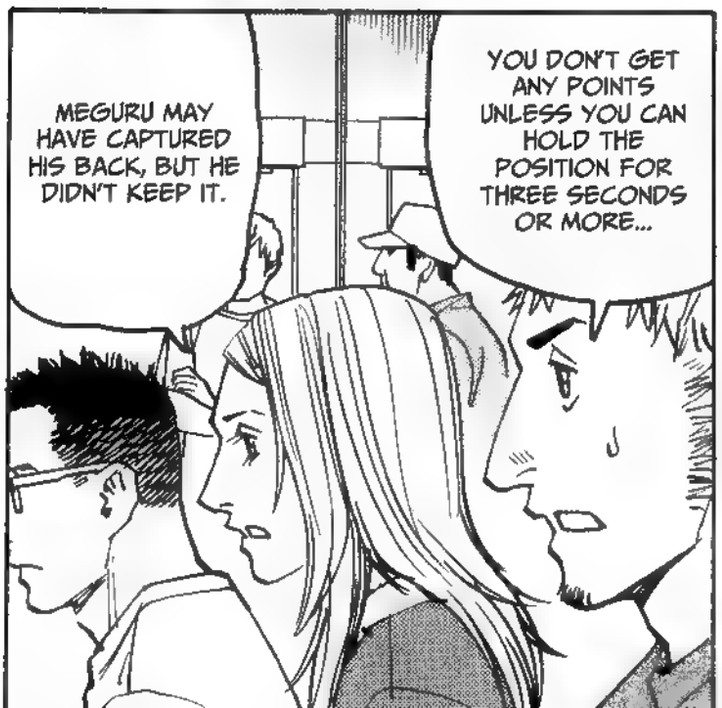

AH!
WHOA!
ANXIOUS
A LEG-LOCK ?!
IS HE GONNA BREAK MY ANKLE?!




HE GOT ON TOP AGAIN..!
AH!
เฮ้ย!

OGASAWARA'S THE ONE GETTING POINTS...
BUT...


TOP.
HALF GUARD.
PIN.

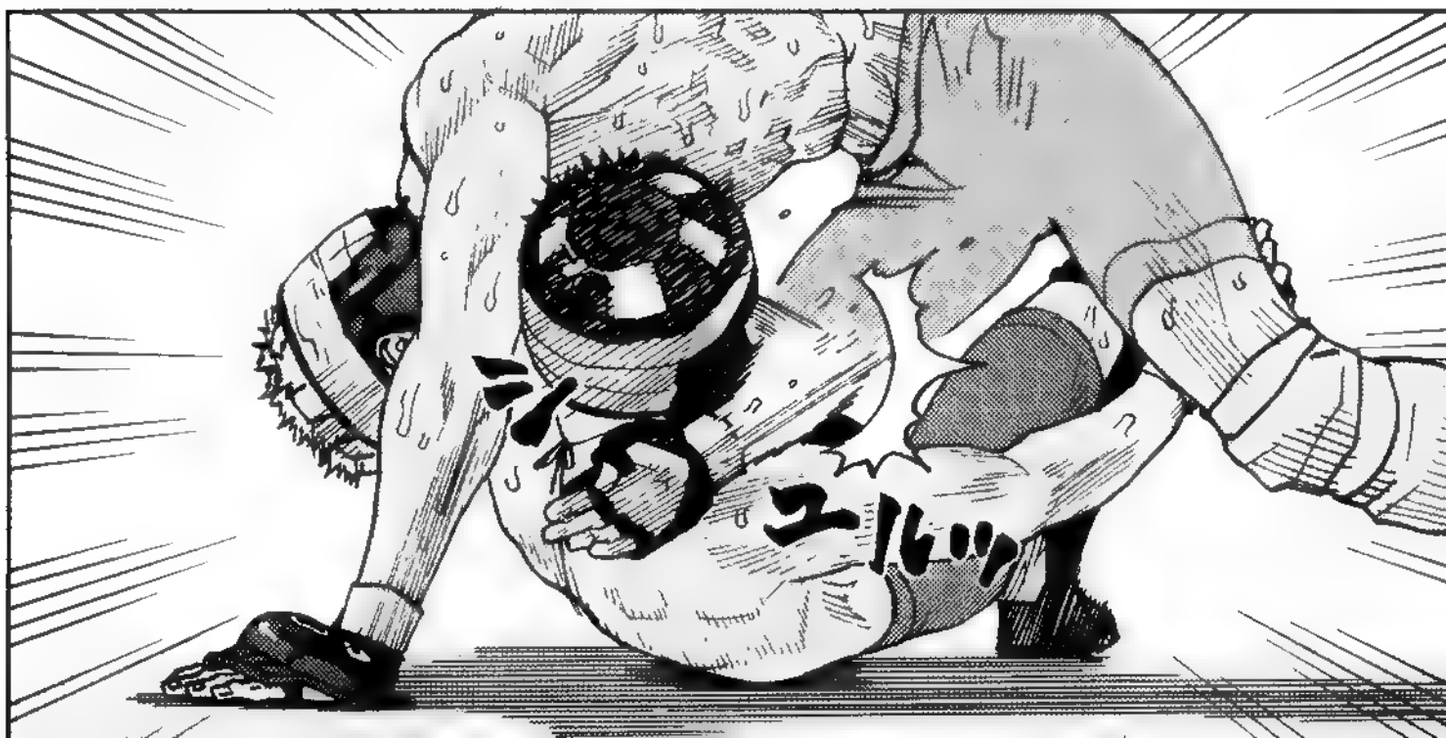

MEGURU MAY HAVE CAPTURED HIS BACK, BUT HE DIDN'T KEEP IT.
YOU DON'T GET ANY POINTS UNLESS YOU CAN HOLD THE POSITION FOR THREE SECONDS OR MORE...

COME ON! THEY ARE JUST GRAPPLING ON THE GROUND!
WOW!
THE LEGLOCK WAS JUST A FEINT TO GET ON TOP.

THAT BASTARD ...
SHIT!
OGASAWARA'S JUST TRYING TO WEAR MEGURU OUT!
I CAN BEAT HIM IN A GROUND BATTLE!
gasp
WE'RE LOCKED IN!
gasp
LET IT GO!
MEGURU! GET UP!
HE'S JUST PLAYING WITH YOU!
gasp
WHAT ?!
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp

...BUT IT'S TOO LATE,
MEGURU!
YOU MAY HAVE TWIGGED TO IT NOW...

I GOT AN UNDER-HOOK!
IF I CAN JUST SLIP IN AND SWEEP HIS LEG...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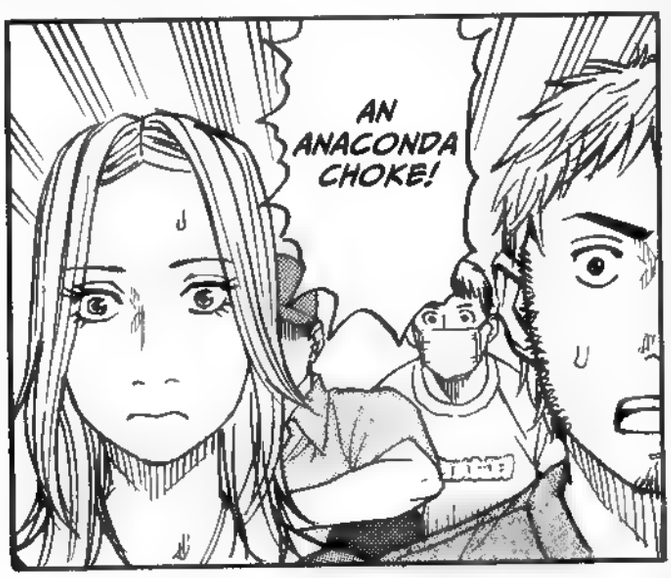
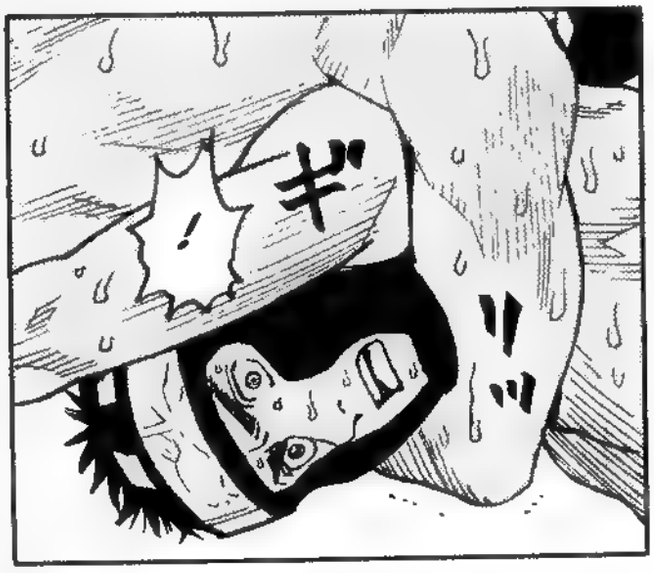

AN ANACONDA CHOKE!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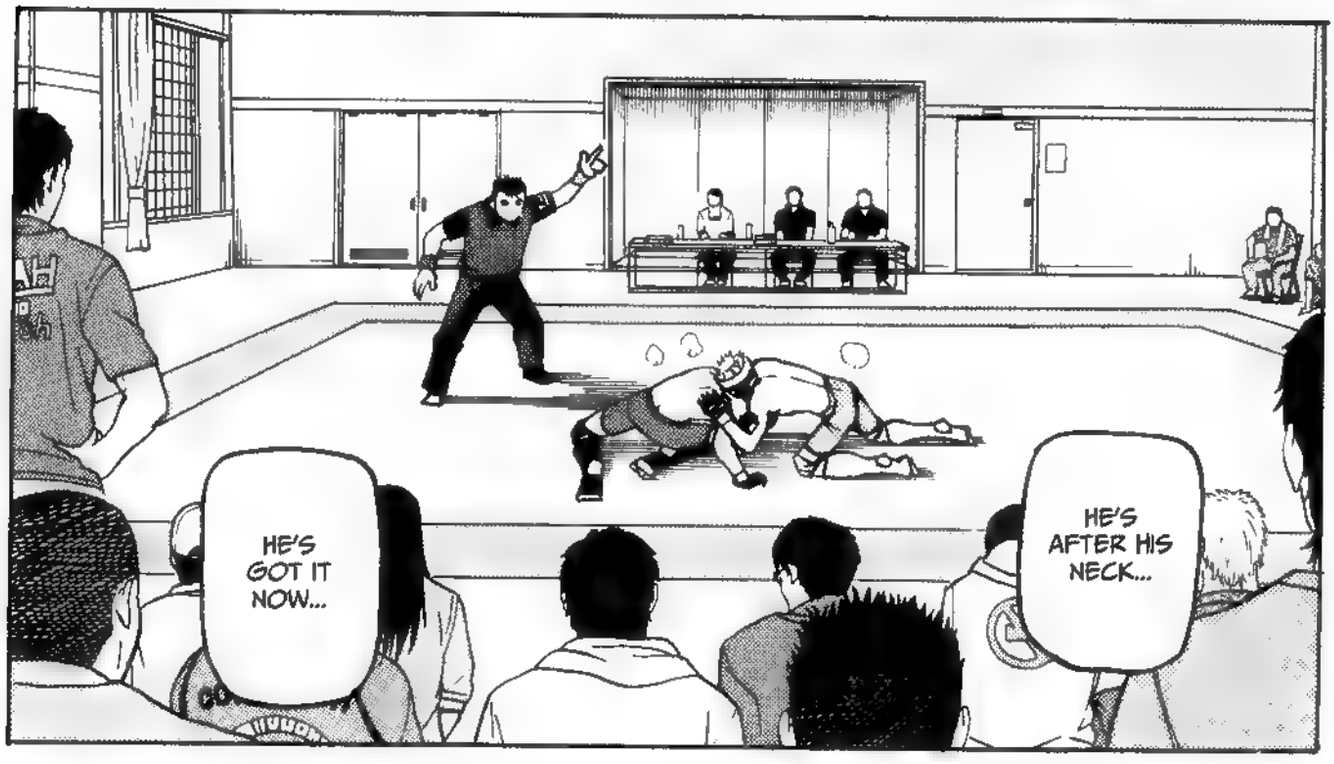
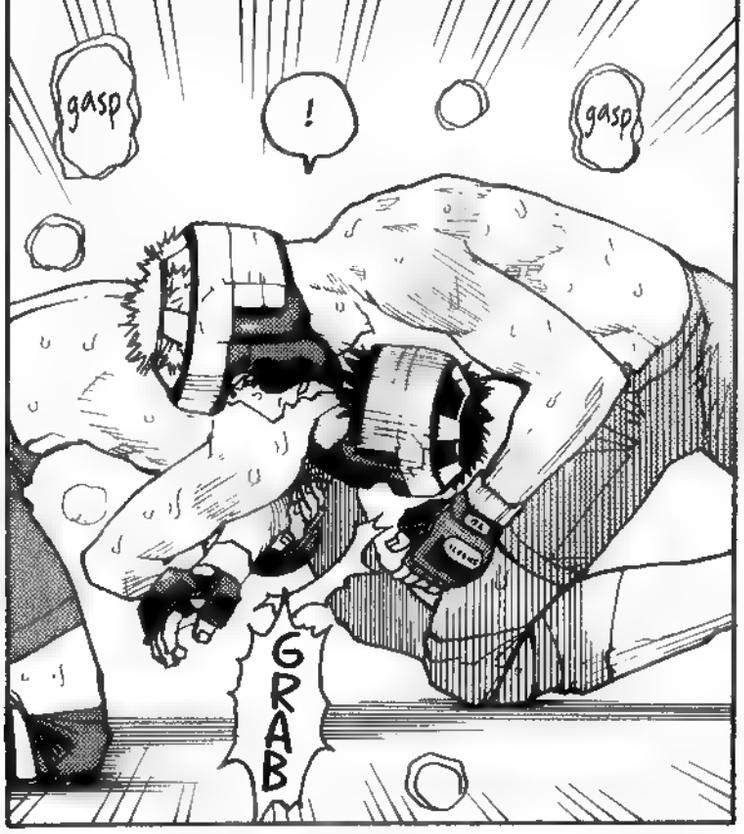
!
!!

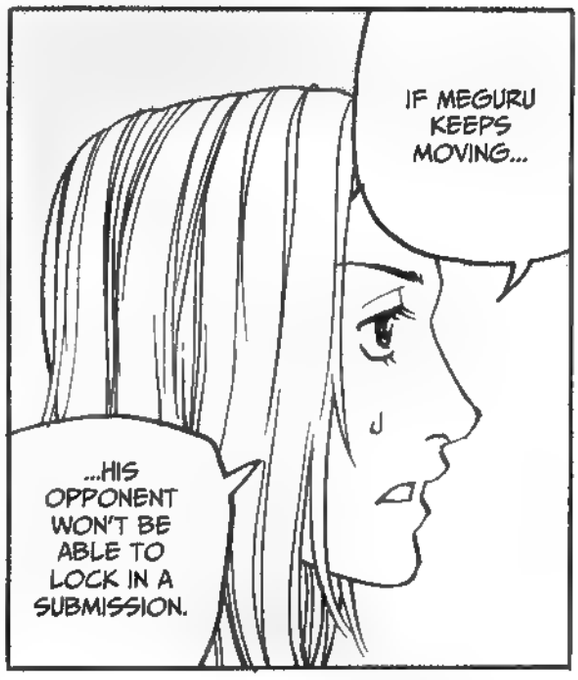
MEGURU, DON'T ROLL ONTO YOUR SIDE!
GET ON YOUR KNEES AND STAND UP!

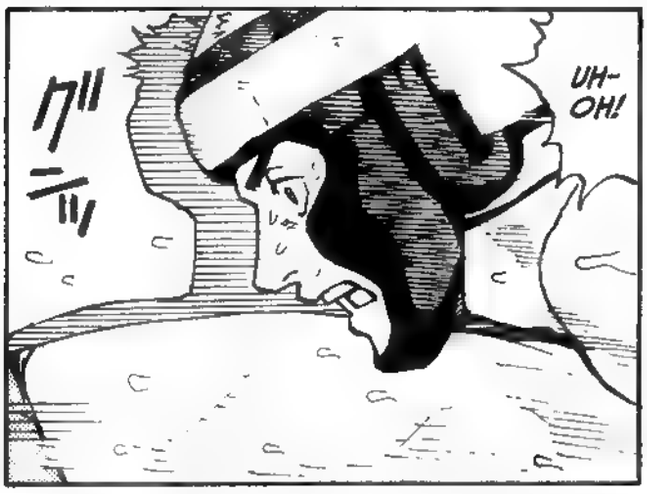
CATCH
!

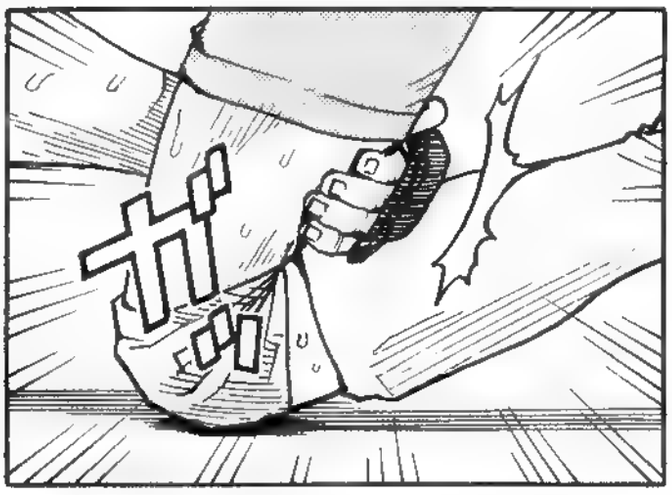

HE'S GOT IT NOW...
HE'S AFTER HIS NECK...

KIYOSHI, PLAY-TIME'S OVER!
TWO MINUTES LEFT!
FINISH HIM!
FIGHT, MEGURU!
GET YOUR ARMS DOWN!
EVERYTHING HE'S DONE MUST HAVE BEEN A TRAP TO WEAR MEGURU OUT.
WITH THAT IN MIND...
BUT STILL...
"WHEN YOU STAND, GET UNDERHOOKS ON YOUR OPPONENT SO HE CAN'T COME AROUND BEHIND YOU."
ALL HIS COUNTERS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THIS THEORY IN MIND.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE PUR-POSELY LEFT HIS SIDES OPEN TO DRAW MEGURU IN.


gasp
!
gasp
GRAB


IF MEGURU KEEPS MOVING...
...HIS OPPONENT WON'T BE ABLE TO LOCK IN A SUBMISSION.


UH-OH!



GET ON TOP, MEGURU!
HE WENT FOR A SINGLE LEG?!
NOT SO FAST, MY FRIEND!
I'M ON TOP!

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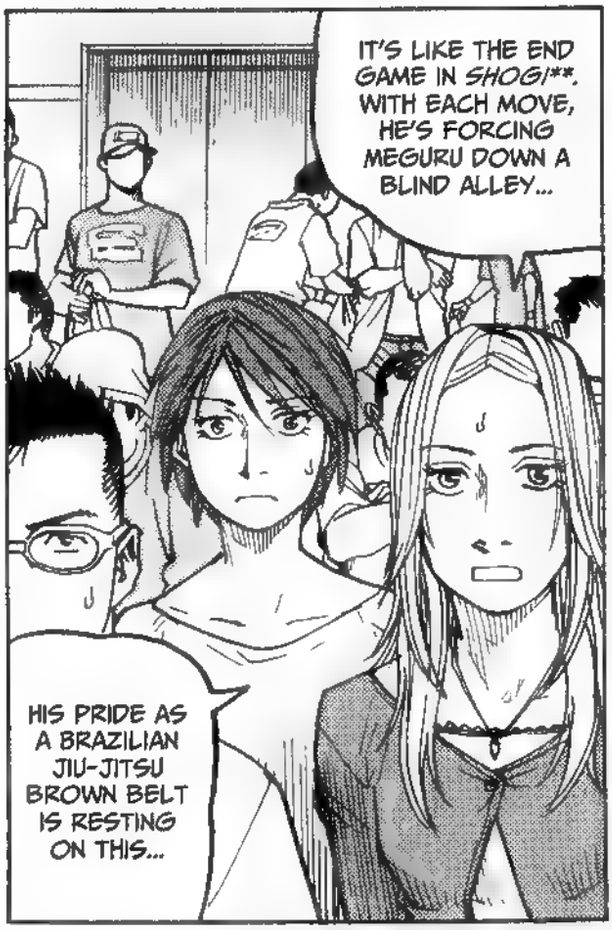
ドゴ


IT'S LIKE THE END GAME IN SHOGI**. WITH EACH MOVE, HE'S FORCING MEGURU DOWN A BLIND ALLEY...
HIS PRIDE AS A BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU BROWN BELT IS RESTING ON THIS...

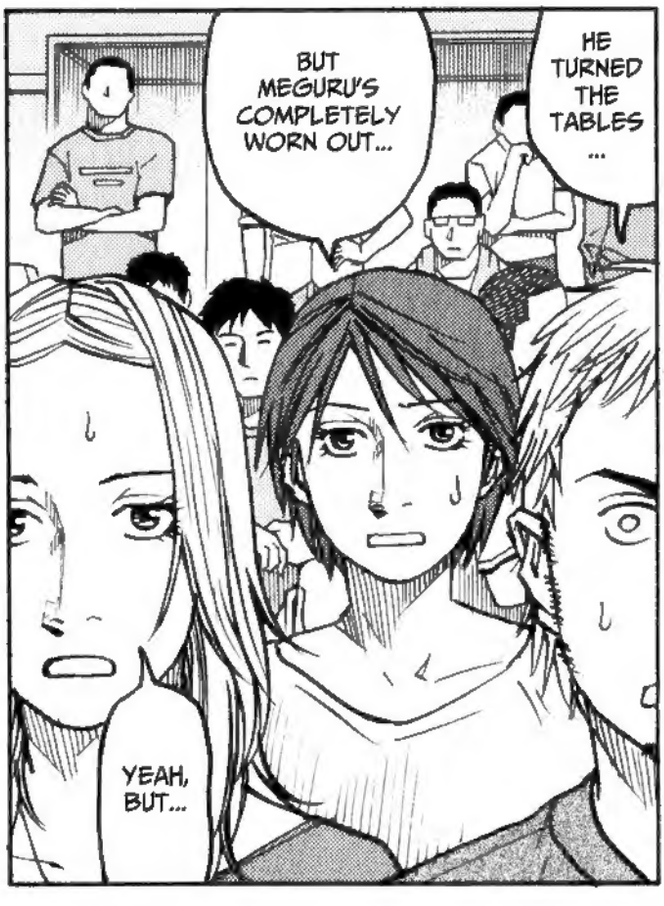
*A FAVORITE MOVE OF 2002 *SHOOTO* LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION HIDEK. KADOWAKI, WHICH IS BASICALLY A REAR NAKED CHOKE FROM THE CRUCIFIX POSITION.
**A JAPANESE BOARD GAME RESEMBLING CHESS.

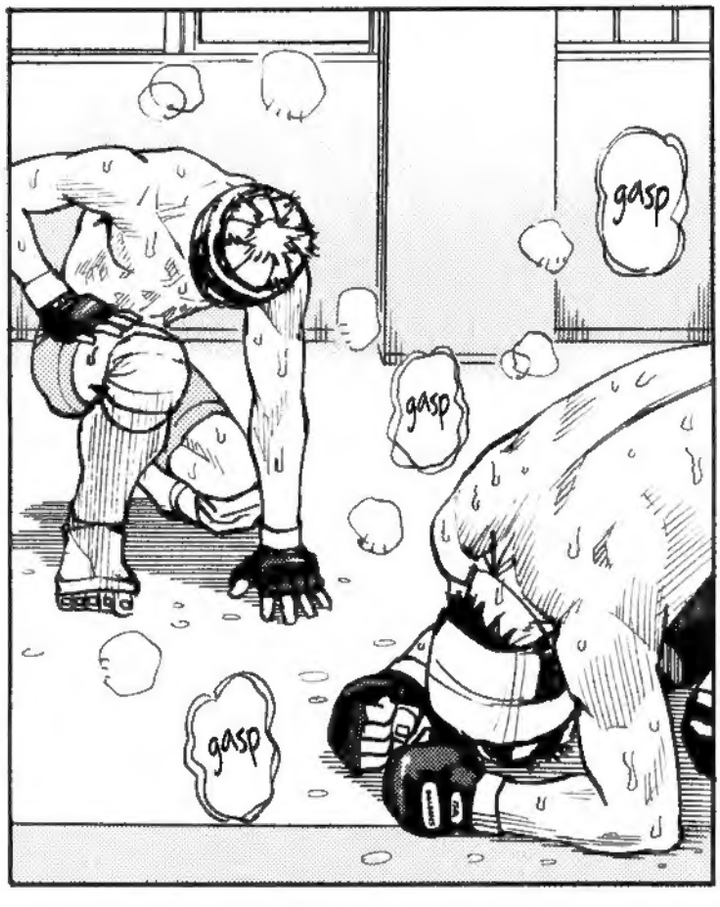
gasp
...TO GET A SUBMIS-SION.
gasp
HE'S GOING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES...
gasp
gasp
YOU CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE ANYMORE, CAN YOU?
IT'S OVER NOW!
JUST BREATHING HURTS YOUR LUNGS, DOESN'T IT?
YOUR MUSCLES ARE SORE FROM THE FLOOD OF LACTIC ACID, AREN'T THEY?
...

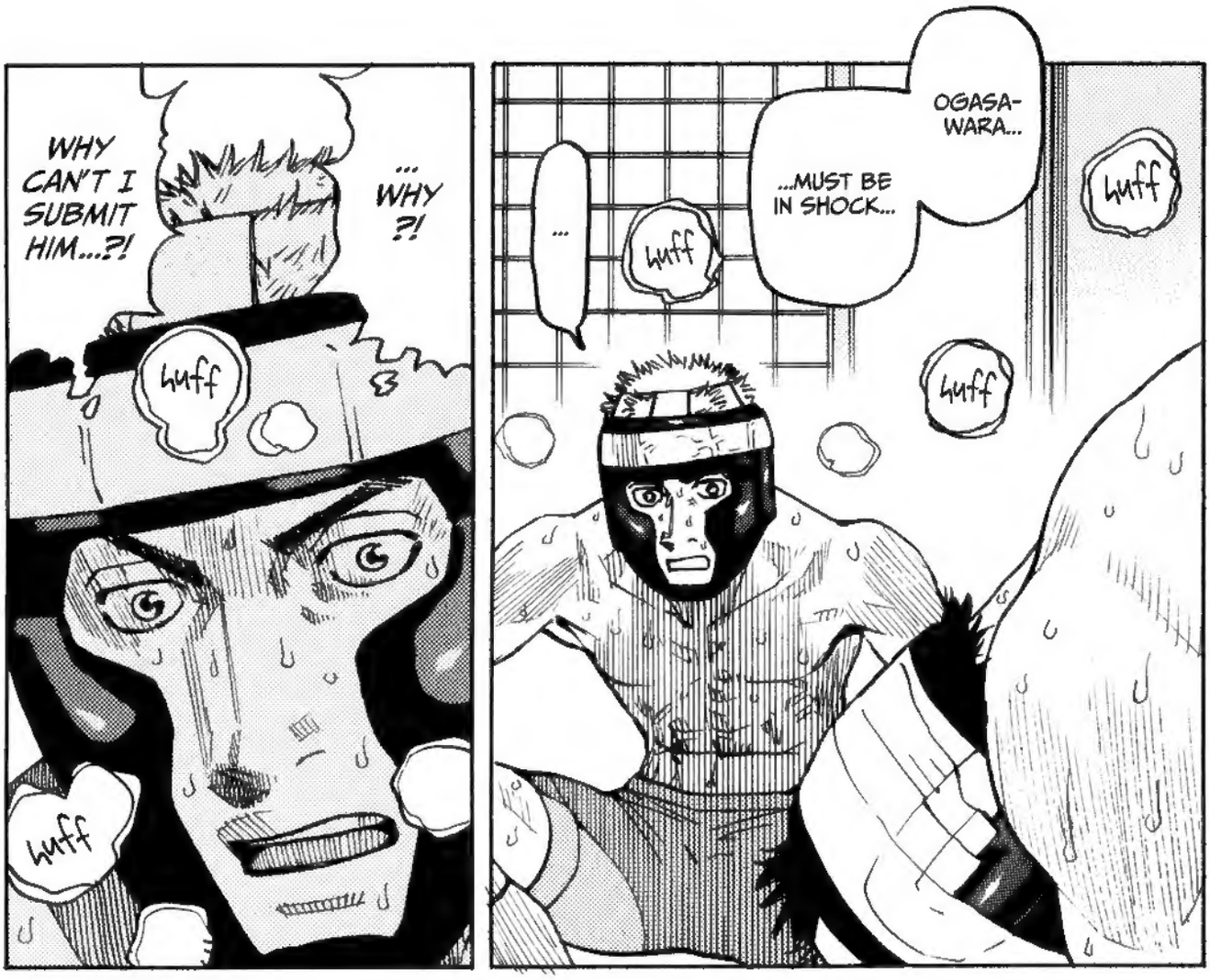
WHAT
?!

UGH!
JUST MOVE!
THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WATA-NABE'S 84 KG..!
HE'S LIGHT!
BELIEVE THAT!

OUT!
BREAK!


BUT MEGURU'S COMPLETELY WORN OUT...
HE TURNED THE TABLES ...
YEAH, BUT...


gasp
gasp
gasp



To be continued in *All-Rounder Meguru* Vol. 5

Why does Ogasawara want to win so badly? The truth comes out during the match.

Why does Meguru keep getting up again and again? The bond with his friends is what keeps him moving.

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU オールラウンダー廻（メグル） 5

On sale this winter!